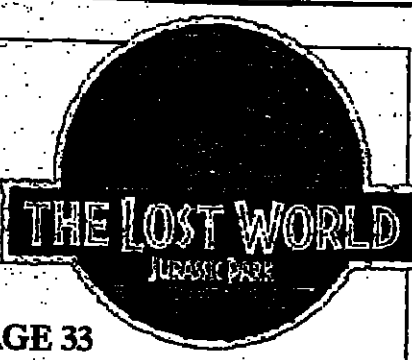


## RETURN OF THE DINOSAURS

Geoff Brown reviews the new Spielberg PAGE 33



## BEST FOR BOOKS

Terry Waite on Hezbollah PLUS: Fritz Lang and Derek Walcott, PAGES 36, 37



## NOT QUITE HOME AND DRY

Tracey Capstick's sailor returns PAGE 48



## BEST FOR JOBS

<input type="checkbox"/> Executive	100K
<input type="checkbox"/> Manager	80K
<input type="checkbox"/> IT director	55K
<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate	20K

2-SECTION APPOINTMENTS

Tory ideas remodelled by Labour

# Rebates plan for top-up pensions

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government will today announce a shake-up of pension provision, including a radical plan to give national insurance rebates to millions of people if they join flexible personal schemes.

The centrepiece of the proposals will be a chance for everyone to hold a second "stateholder" pension to top up their basic state pension.

The National Insurance rebates, which may be worth about £10 a week, will go to those who join cheap-to-administer schemes which will be organised so that they can be easily transferred from one employer to another.

John Denham, the Social Security Minister, will today launch a comprehensive review of provision for the over 60s in a tacit admission that the state alone can no longer cover provision for the elderly.

The basic state pension will remain, rising in line with inflation, but the Government will not be able to meet its promise of the 1990s that it would keep increases in line with earnings. Labour has also dropped its plan to provide a minimum guaranteed pension, higher than the basic state pension, for poorer people.

The key new proposal to be announced today is the plan for a second pension to complement the basic state pension — an idea that bears similarities to the Conservative Basic Pension Plus idea for reforming the system, which was decided by Tony Blair before the election.

Under Labour's plans, everyone who does not have their own occupational scheme will be encouraged to take out a personal pension. That could be run by a variety of different groups including mutual societies, co-operative societies, employers or groups of employees.

SERPS, the state earnings-related pension scheme, will continue, at least in the short term. But those who opt out of the scheme will be given national insurance rebates which can be used to build up private provision.

Under Peter Lilley's plans for the Conservatives, people in their early twenties and below would have been given £9 a week rebates from their National Insurance contributions to put into their new pension funds. Although had intended to phase out SERPS, the Tories would have topped up each person's fund by 5 per cent of earnings.

The start up cost of that scheme was estimated at £160 million a year, rising to £7 billion by 2040. But Mr Lilley said that it would save £40 billion in the longer term. Social security sources said yesterday that the aim of the Government's plan was to provide value-for-money, flexible and secure pension provision. One way of achieving that might be to encourage group pensions that could be adopted by a number of employers within an industry, such as car manufacturing or construction. The aim would be both to secure cheaper deals and to enable employees to transfer their scheme to another company.

At present many people are believed to be deterred from taking out private provision because schemes are too expensive — charges can eat up a quarter of the value of the pension or more. But the Government is expected to limit the fees that firms will be able to charge.

The review will also look at the role of the state in approving second pensions, given the misleading scandal of the 1980s in which millions of people were advised to join unsuitable schemes and for which most are still awaiting compensation. Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has already warned the industry to "shape up", and one option being floated is to exclude from the new stateholder scheme any pension firms that fail to settle claims by next year.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary is also keen to examine ways of ensuring that all of the 700,000 pensioners eligible for income support take up their entitlement. Many old people are put off by the stigma of going to benefit offices to claim their extra cash. Ms Harman has suggested that these pensioners should be identified and an alternative method of payment found.

The review team to be announced by Mr Denham is expected to include a number of outsiders as well as government representatives. Social security sources said that the plans would also go out to wide consultation.



Jonathan Aitken heading for home surrounded by photographers and reporters during his brief foray yesterday back into the public eye

# Aitken comeback ends with hasty retreat

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AFTER a period of resting in America, Jonathan Aitken made his comeback on the public stage yesterday. He had promised an intriguing solo performance on College Green. What his 100-strong audience got was not even Whitehall farce.

Mr Aitken, who is a bit down on his luck at the moment, had done his own press-publicity. Earlier this week the fax machine in *The Times* newsroom whirled and out came a press release from Mr Aitken himself.

Writing in the third person, he said: "Jonathan Aitken is aware, from the large numbers of photographers stationed outside his home, that some media organisations are currently anxious to take pictures of him. To make life easier for all concerned, Mr Aitken is letting it be known that he will be walking across College Green, Westminster, at 5pm on Wednesday, July 16. At this brief photo opportunity Mr Aitken will say nothing beyond the terms of the statement issued today."

Clearly Mr Aitken had learnt something from his scrapping with the press. He had learnt that if you do something really odd — and making an announcement that you are going to hang around College Green saying nothing is definitely odd — you will have the full attention of the press.

At 5pm yesterday there were at least 100 photographers, television cameramen and reporters milling around on the green waiting for the show to begin.

The problem started when he didn't arrive. Michael Jackson style, from the skies. As Mr Aitken was spotted approaching the green 50 yards away, a photographer (with an 8ft ladder) made his move towards him and a stampede followed.

If Mr Aitken or any of those bruised by yesterday's skirmish refer to it,

when trying to impress their grandchildren, as the Battle of College Green, they will be exaggerating a little. Like many engagements before it, this battle was over quickly and did not actually take place at the place after which it was named. Mr Aitken never actually made it to College Green. Surrounded within seconds by the pack, with lenses telescoping up his nostrils, Mr Aitken got himself trapped between a transit van and a wall.

He squeezed clear but progress towards the patch of grass was slow. Mr Aitken looked rather taken back by the turnout but not in the happy way that a pop star might be. Perhaps not for the first time in the past few weeks, Mr Aitken may have been wondering if he had done quite the right thing.

It was unfortunate that he got swamped by photographers but one was tempted to ask: what had he expected? So we asked. But Mr Aitken,

as he had promised, was doing a dumb show.

Eventually, after refusing to answer any questions and inching forward through the pack he declared, with a touch of the prima donna: "I don't think we are going to get to College Green. If this is the way you are going to behave, I am going back." And he did. His house is just around a couple of corners from the green. For the next ten minutes he shuffled towards home.

On Little College Street Michael Brunson of ITN fell backwards over the kerb. "I'm sorry Michael. It's not my fault," Mr Aitken said.

Down Great Peter Street: "What do you think of the accusations in the Commons today that you committed perjury, Mr Aitken?" Finally, into the home strait of Lord North Street. "Why did you do this, Mr Aitken?" And at last he answered: "I arranged it to be helpful to you," he said.

## Shares hit a record high

Shares rose to a record high yesterday as unemployment fell to its lowest level for seven years.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares came within a whisker of rising above 5,000 for the first time, peaking at 4998 before slipping in late trading to close at 4964.2, a rise of 64.9 points on the day.

The downward trend in unemployment continued in June as the number of people out of work fell for the sixteenth month to reach the lowest level since April 1990. Record levels, page 25.

Stock market, page 31.

TV & RADIO	46.47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24.48
LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	20
WILLIAM REES-MOGGIE	33.35
ARTS	33.35
CHESS & BRIDGE	42
COUNT & SOCIAL	20
SPORT	42.46.48
TRAVEL NEWS	22.23
BOOKS	36.37

# Riddle of Versace's contact with gay killer 'years ago'

FROM TOM RHODES IN SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI

GIANNI VERSACE, the Italian fashion designer, may have met his alleged killer years ago, it was disclosed last night.

Although the FBI and police denied any previous contact between Versace, 50, and Andrew Cunanan, 27, the serial killer believed to be responsible for his murder, it was reported that the two may have had a backstage encounter at the San Francisco Opera where the designer said: "I remember you."

Maureen Orth, who has been researching an article on Mr Cunanan for the September issue of *Vanity Fair*, said she had spoken to friends who recalled the meeting on the West Coast some years ago. She did not think the two had been lovers.

The latest disclosure came as federal agents and state police launched a nationwide hunt for Mr Cunanan, a gay prostitute who is HIV positive.

He is already charged with one murder in Minnesota and is thought to be responsible for four others, including that of Versace, who was shot outside his ocean-front mansion on Miami's South Beach.

Police were last night targeting gay groups and AIDS hotlines for any information that might lead to his arrest. A police hotline received more than 100 calls and a group of 400 FBI agents trawled the streets of South Florida.

Authorities were checking airports, railway stations and ports for any sign of the missing man whom one officer described as a "chameleon of disguise". Thousands of posters, bearing two pictures of the alleged killer, have been circulated and police have issued an alert to Florida's gay community.

Mr Cunanan was said by the FBI to have been sighted in the neighbouring community of West Palm Beach only two weeks before. A red Chevrolet pick-up truck, believed to have been stolen by Mr Cunanan from the scene of a New Jersey murder in May, was discovered close to the Versace palazzo.

Experts believe that Mr Cunanan had become a "spyre killer", who may have wanted to wreak revenge after he contracted the AIDS virus. "He could be set off by any emotional turpitude," said Robert Ressler, a former FBI behavioural scientist. "Health problems, such as a discovery that the individual found out he had AIDS, could send him into a frenzy."

Donatella Versace, the dead man's sister, and Santo, his brother, arrived by private jet from Milan yesterday to arrange for the funeral.

Into the darkness, page 13  
Rachel Campbell-Johnston, page 18  
Brand survival, page 29

# Brown to reopen debate on EMU

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BREMNER

GORDON BROWN will launch a national debate on the single currency, but Mr Brown will tell the Royal Institute of International Affairs that the Government is concerned to have a serious debate "because whether Britain is in or out, it will have profound implications for British business and the British economy". There should be informed discussion "about where Britain's national interests lie".

The Chancellor believes that Britain cannot afford not to weigh up the benefits and pitfalls of membership — even though it is unlikely to join in the first wave in 1999. And to get the debate going, he is to issue a Treasury guide for business on the practical implications of joining or staying out, and to set up a group to give business and public sector organisations advice about EMU.

He is also to announce publication of a 22-page report by Lord Currie, professor of economics at the London Business School, to promote "better informed and more reasoned discussion".

Euro sceptics will claim that the move is a sign that ministers are moving towards

the single currency, but Mr Brown will tell the Royal Institute of International Affairs that the Government is concerned to have a serious debate "because whether Britain is in or out, it will have profound implications for British business and the British economy". There should be informed discussion "about where Britain's national interests lie".

The Chancellor's aides deny that his speech will mark any change in the Government's stance on the single currency. Like John Major and Kenneth Clarke before him, Mr Brown believes that Britain cannot afford to stay out of the EU negotiations and he accepts that formidable obstacles remain to British membership in 1999.

Mr Brown, who has been one of the Cabinet's leading

Continued on page 2, col 7  
New EU, page 11  
Leading article, page 19

# Pensioner suffered 20-year power cut

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN 86-year-old woman has spent 20 years without electricity after thinking her supply was cut off because she used too little power.

She has used candles and oil lamps for lighting and gone without television and other appliances.

Yesterday the Sheffield woman, who was too embarrassed 20 years ago to query her disconnection, was finally able to be identified. But she told Yorkshire Electricity:

"My husband and I came home from shopping one day and some electricity board workers were digging outside. We have not had any electricity since. I remember a letter saying I didn't use much electricity so we thought we had been cut off because we weren't very good customers."

"Over the years we just got used to it and cooked by gas. Obviously, we never knew what it was to have television, a fridge, or any modern gadgets."

It was earlier this year

when people in her street alerted Yorkshire Electricity. They had assumed that the old lady was an eccentric and preferred a life without electricity. But after her husband died and she became more frail, they decided she needed some 20th century comforts.

The company checked its records and could find no indication of non-payment. Yesterday a spokeswoman said: "It appears the supply to the house was accidentally cut off in the Seventies. At that time, when bills were sent out,

the words 'Low user' were printed on them. This old lady obviously thought we did not regard her as a good customer and believed we had cut off her supply because her bills were too low."

"As soon as we were alerted of her plight, we sent an electrician to her home, but because she had been without electricity for so long, her home needed rewiring before we could reconnect the supply."

The work was carried out free of charge.



"She'll think William Hague's changed a bit since she last saw him"

## Esquire

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# Gritty Frank rides a one-way ticket to Darwinian dead-end

Alongside chips with mayonnaise, an unexpected pleasure of Belgium as a tourist destination is Antwerp Zoo. Situated near the station in a drizzly region of Flanders, this boasts one of the world's finest collections of Central African fauna. At its centre is a small herd of okapi.

The okapi is growing rare. With the markings of a faded zebra, the body of a stunted giraffe and the long tongue of an anteater, the beast is perfectly adapted to lick termites off high branches in the Congo rainforest. Sadly it is not

equipped for much else. Its coat no camouflage outside the sun-dappled forest floor, and hunted almost to extinction by pygmies, the okapi is — frankly — on a one-way ticket to nowhere.

Except Antwerp. Here history's last okapi huddle in the Belgian mist, an expression of infinite paths betraying some half-sensed animal intuition that they are at a Darwinian dead-end.

They are okapi and they are not ashamed. They could and would not be anything else. But they know that being an

okapi is no longer where it's at, and that soon there may be no okapi at all. Railway trains shunt and whistle in the distance, mayonnaise-flecked school parties giggle and goggle through the wire, and the okapi of Antwerp peer into the drizzle, remember a happier epoch when there were trees and sunshine and termites, and brace themselves for extinction.

Watching Frank Dobson at the Commons yesterday, I was carried mentally to Antwerp Zoo. The Secretary of State for Health is a socialist and he is



MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

not ashamed. He cannot and would not be anything else. But he knows that being a socialist is not where it's at in Tony Blair's new Labour Cabinet, and that soon there may be no socialists at all.

Hunted almost to extinction by the tabloid newspapers, his ideological markings no longer any camouflage, even in Camden, he knows his career

is on a one-way ticket to nowhere.

Tories giggle and journalists goggle and Mr Dobson shakes his head and rises at the dispatch box, his gritty gaze betraying some half-sensed animal intuition that he and his kind are at a Darwinian dead-end.

He remembers a happier epoch when there was

Clause 4 and the GLC, and the red flag flew over Camden Town Hall. And braces himself for extinction. But not quite yet.

Dobson knows the knives are out for him but he is damned if he is going to give the Cabinet butchers the excuse to sack him. Yesterday he had come to the Commons to explain his plans to unpick the "two-tier" system by which GP fundholders' secure advantages for their patients. Mr Dobson had not, however, come to abolish GP fundholding itself. But of

course "old" Labour was against GP fundholding altogether. He could tell from the cheers and jeers behind him that many Labour backbenchers still hold that view, and believe he shares it.

You could sense from Dobson's body language that he is anything but an enthusiast for fundholding. He described Tory NHS reforms as having been based "largely on the advice of a heroin addict and a fraudster". Backbenchers begged him not to stop here, but to abolish fundholding completely. But he dared not

encourage them. They were off-message and Peter Mandelson wields a mean blowpipe. Mr Dobson snuck doggedly to his brief. While there were termites left, even in this barren new Labour terrain, he would lick them. And when the pygmies come for him, as he knows they will, he will go with dignity into extinction.

□ A collection of Matthew Parris's Parliamentary Sketches, I Couldn't Possibly Comment, is published by Robson Books.

## Lab tests prove BSE can pass to human tissue

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BSE can be transmitted to humans beings. British scientists have found. The research shows that infectious proteins, or prions, from contaminated beef can, in laboratory tests, transmit to human tissue to trigger brain infections. The findings may also have implications for lamb infected with scrapie.

The researchers have found that the proteins involved with scrapie can also infect human proteins. James Hope, who led the research at the Institute for Animal Health in Newbury, Berkshire, said yesterday: "We have shown that change in a particular human protein can be induced by the bovine infectious agent."

However, he said the findings should be treated cautiously. "To extrapolate this to say that bovine spongiform encephalopathy has been, or is being, transmitted to humans discounts a lot of other factors that are involved in cross-species transmission," he said.

The scientists, whose work has been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and is published in *Nature*, also found that scrapie can be transmitted to humans to trigger a change in proteins. However, scrapie can be traced back 200 years, yet there is no evidence that people eating lamb have been

affected by scrapie. The scientists found that scrapie and BSE were equally good at infecting human proteins. "So you might actually infer that since the sheep and the bovine material convert the human ones at similar efficiency, BSE is not a risk factor for the disease. That would be the positive message," said Dr Hope, who is funded by the government's Biological and Biotechnological Sciences Research Council.

A more pessimistic conclusion is that scrapie-infected lamb is a threat to humans and should be treated in a similar way to beef. "It really depends on whether you wear rose-tinted or doom-laden glasses," Dr Hope said. He pointed out that outside the laboratory a multitude of additional factors — such as the dose, strain, and route of infection — would affect transmission.

Beef infected with BSE is thought to have triggered a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which strikes people at a much younger age than the normal version, causing symptoms of dementia leading to death. The Department of Health has recorded 19 confirmed and probable cases of "new variant" CJD. The patients are thought to have become infected in the

late 1980s, before strict controls came in to stop BSE-infected beef entering the human food chain.

Because of the disease's long incubation period, experts do not know if this is just the start of an epidemic that may kill thousands of people. Whether there is a serious epidemic will depend largely on how easily BSE can jump the species barrier and infect humans.

Brain diseases such as BSE, scrapie and CJD are thought to be caused by alterations to the molecular structure of proteins called prions. Normally harmless prions become defective, and cause other prions with which they come into contact to alter in the same way, thus setting up a chain reaction of infection.

Dr Hope and his team showed that prion proteins from both BSE and scrapie-infected animal brains were able to convert human prion proteins into the dangerous form. But the efficiency of this reaction was much lower than the conversion of human prion protein by the defective prion associated with "normal" CJD.

Dr Hope said: "We have shown that there is a molecular barrier between cows and humans, but it's not an absolute barrier. It's just a question of efficiency."



Bernadette Martin: "She was such a special girl"

## Let her be the last victim, says Ulster father

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE father of a Roman Catholic girl shot dead by a loyalist gunman issued an impassioned plea yesterday to republicans not to avenge her. Laurence Martin wept as he voiced the hope that Bernadette, 18, would be the last victim of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

Speaking at the family home in Craigavon, Co Armagh, he said: "We do not want any repercussions or people claiming reprisals. If her death is the last death in this country, then maybe it is worth something and we can live in peace."

The RUC said yesterday that it was working on the premise that the killing in the early hours of Monday morning was sectarian. Miss Martin was shot four times in the head at close range as she lay asleep at the house of her Protestant boyfriend in the staunchly loyalist village of Aghalee, Co Antrim.

The gunman entered through an unlocked back door about 4am on Monday. Miss Martin died later that day in hospital in Belfast. Two men were questioned by police yesterday.

The victim's father said that he could not understand why anyone would murder his daughter. Mr Martin said: "She was such a special girl. We loved her so very much. It is hard to believe she really is gone. Whoever did that, I have no feelings for them. I can

forgive them, but God might never forgive them."

Mr Martin's wife, Margaret, was so devastated by the killing that she had not moved from her daughter's coffin since it arrived at the family home late on Monday night. Bernadette's boyfriend, Gordon Greene, is also devastated.

Mr Martin said: "We have spoken to him about what happened, but nobody is really making much sense at the minute. It's a hard time for everybody."

A stream of friends and relatives yesterday visited the Martins' house, on a mixed housing estate in the new town of Craigavon, to offer condolences. The Martins are a devout Catholic family, but the well-wishers included many of Bernadette's Protestant friends from the food factory where she met her boyfriend.

Rodney McCaffrey, the personnel manager at Avondale Foods, said people were in a "trance-like state". He added: "She was a very beautiful young girl, a very bubbly, popular young girl, very outgoing, a great lover of life."

The murder was initially thought to have been committed by the Loyalist Volunteer Force, a new hardline terrorist group founded by renegade members of the Ulster Volunteer Force. However, the LVF issued a coded statement last night denying responsibility.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Alcopop sales to be curbed

Curbs on the sale of alcopops will be announced today after growing concern about the scale of underage drinking. The Government's action follows the drinks industry's strengthening of its code of practice to restrict the promotion and packaging of drinks that appeal to children. Shops and pubs will be urged to boycott any alcopop that is in breach of the strengthened code, which will cover all drinks over 0.5 per cent alcohol and will regulate colour, consistency and labelling. A Government source said it was the industry's last chance to make self-regulation work.

#### Contest for new Scots assembly

The first Scottish Parliament in 300 years is to be the subject of an international architectural competition, the Scottish secretary Donald Dewar announced yesterday. The new Parliament building will be in Edinburgh and several sites are being considered, including a number of greenfield locations. The competition will be launched later in the year, with a winner announced early in 1998.

#### Teachers setting more homework

Teachers are responding to government initiatives and already setting more homework and raising their expectations of pupils. David Blunkett said yesterday. Inspectors had found that primary schools in particular were making renewed attempts to raise standards. The Education and Employment Secretary told the annual conference of local authority leaders in Bristol.

#### Heart-attack man sues for stress

In a test case that could establish an employer's legal liability for stress-related illness, the manager of a shop in Taunton, Somerset, is suing his former employers claiming overwork brought on two heart attacks in nine months. Aidan Downing, 47, has been awarded legal aid to pursue his claim for £250,000 from the convenience store chain after the heart attacks left him unable to work.

#### Lord Chancellor plans open house

The Lord Chancellor wants to make his official residence available for public tours if a £650,000 refurbishment is approved. Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, has been criticised by Tory MPs over the proposed work although it is part of a conservation programme of the Palace of Westminster. His department said that the tours would appeal to people with a "genuine interest in historic buildings and art".

## Unionists walk out of talks over disarmament plans

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UNIONISTS walked out of talks on the future of Northern Ireland at Stormont yesterday in protest at Government plans for disarming terrorists.

The Democratic Unionists and the small United Kingdom Unionist Party left when a Northern Ireland Office minister refused to answer questions about an Anglo-Irish paper on disarmament. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, also left. He said, however, that he had not joined the walkout because he still hoped to amend Anglo-Irish plans on weapons.

Mr Trimble immediately telephoned Downing Street to ask for an early meeting with Tony Blair to demand that firm guarantees are written into the Anglo-Irish paper to ensure that terrorists disarm.

The Unionists left after Paul Murphy, the Political Development Minister, read aloud an Anglo-Irish paper which clarified a document on disarming terrorists agreed last month by London and Dublin. Mr Murphy declined to answer a question from the Democratic Unionists because

he said that the paper had clarified the thinking of the two Governments and he did not have time to consult his Irish colleagues.

Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, who is firmly opposed to the Anglo-Irish plans, walked out in protest. The DUP for East Belfast accused the Government of refusing to answer his question because the Anglo-Irish paper had been cleared with Sinn Féin. The DUP rejects the Anglo-Irish plan.



Trimble: sought early meeting with Tony Blair

Irish paper because London and Dublin have agreed that Sinn Féin will be able to join substantive talks simply on the basis of an IRA ceasefire. The two Governments have said that the IRA would not have to begin decommissioning until progress has been made in the negotiations.

The Ulster Unionists have a more moderate position. Mr Trimble says decommissioning must begin "at the commencement" of the substantive talks. This means that as soon as Sinn Féin entered the talks, the IRA would have to start decommissioning.

All the parties who walked out yesterday will return next Wednesday to vote on the Anglo-Irish paper. The DUP and the United Kingdom Unionists will vote against the paper. This will be a setback, but the talks will not collapse unless the DUP rejects the paper. Ministers will be hoping that Mr Trimble's moderate stance indicates that he will accept the Anglo-Irish plan, although they accept that he needs guarantees that disarmament will take place.

## Probation and jail services may merge

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Probation Service could lose its independence in a merger with the Prison Service under a review of its operation ordered yesterday.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, began moves towards a shake-up of the criminal justice system after growing unhappiness at the Home Office about the record of the Probation Service.

His announcement came only two weeks after the Home Office infuriated the Probation Service by publishing figures showing that convicted criminals under the supervision of probation officers were being charged with murder at the rate of one a week.

The review, to be completed by December, will consider

all options for reform including a merger with the Prison Service to create a Department of Corrections. One example being looked at is Sweden, which has a National Prisons and Probation Agency.

Joyce Quin, the Prisons and Probation Minister, is to visit Sweden shortly to study the system. She will also see how widespread tagging of offenders has allowed the country to cut its jail population and start closing some jails.

In a written Commons answer, Mr Straw said the Government would look at ways in which the better integration of the two services could improve their performance and effectiveness and increase public confidence.

## Debate on EMU

Continued from page 7  
supporters of the principle of the single currency, has discussed his speech with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and other ministers say that, even privately, he is not arguing the case for entry at present.

But he clearly wants to use the EMU discussions in Europe to push the case for wider economic reform and he wants Britain to take a leading role in achieving that.

The Chancellor's move on EMU comes as Europe confronts the need for drastic changes in the way it is run with the decision to begin the process to admit Cyprus and the former communist countries into the EU.

Britain is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the enlargement of the Community and Mr Cook said yesterday that it was "a historic opportunity to enhance sec-

urity and prosperity throughout Europe". Britain takes over the rotating EU presidency in January in time to lead the opening of negotiations with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, and Cyprus.

The Commission's choice of the five countries must first be endorsed by EU leaders at a December summit in Luxembourg.

The expansion will be accompanied by radical spending reforms to absorb the cost of taking in the five relatively poor former Eastern bloc countries.

Britain will use its presidency in the first half of next year to push ahead with proposals to reform the Common Agricultural Policy, which takes nearly half the current EU budget.

New EU, page 11  
Leading article, page 19

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# Women tried to seduce me, says professor

An academic accused of indecent assault claims he is the victim of a sexual power play, reports Lin Jenkins

A PHILOSOPHY professor told police that a student did a mock striptease and kissed her friend in front of him in a calculated attempt to seduce him, a court was told yesterday.

The pair, having failed in their attempt to "humiliate, seduce, or set him up", decided to concoct a story that he had indecently assaulted them, Reading Crown Court was told.

John Cottingham, 54, claimed in police interviews that he was the victim of a sexual "power play", when the students, aged 21 and 23, invited themselves to his study after a garden party last July. In a

taped interview played to the jury in which he denies indecent assault, he said: "They were trying to get a kick out of trying to seduce or entice a respected professor."

Professor Cottingham, head of philosophy at Reading University and a leading authority on Descartes, denied the students' claims that he had discussed the Marquis de Sade or mentioned whips and canes, or the possibility that the pair were lesbians. "We spoke about my Oxford education and discussed Descartes," he told

police. Nor had he fondled the breasts of both of them at the same time. "That is completely untrue. The idea that I could somehow simultaneously assault two grown women against their wills is absolutely ridiculous."

He told police that after 25 years' teaching at the university, he was sufficiently aware of the possible consequences not to allow young women into his room. But when the pair asked at the garden party if they could see his books, he consented. "Since there were two of

them, obviously any possibility of impropriety simply did not enter my mind."

As he tidied his paperwork, he turned round to find one had removed her tights. "I obviously registered astonishment, and she looked at me with a very knowing, slightly mocking expression, as if she was giving some sort of - I don't know - challenge or come-on of some kind."

He said she stood up, turned to her friend, and said, "We have had hundreds of men, haven't we?" and

her friend concurred. "She did a kind of mock striptease or a vamp, if you like. She pulled down the straps of her dress and took off her bra. Then she went up to the other girl, and sort of hugged her, and actually kissed her, and said, 'We do everything together, don't we?'"

At that point, he said, he was thinking that they were disturbed, or suffering from personal problems - possibly stemming from their complicated relationship. Another possibility was that their actions were a power play to seduce

him, an eminent professor. "The latter seemed to me the most likely explanation for this behaviour," he said.

"I said quite firmly, 'I'm sorry. I don't think this is appropriate. I need to go home.'" They then left giggling and whispering that they needed to go to the lavatory. He was expecting them back to collect their things, but five minutes later a security porter arrived.

Professor Cottingham said he was happily married with a 20-year-old son at university and a 17-

year-old daughter at school. That evening, he had three drinks, and was not drunk. "In hindsight, I made an error of judgment," he said. "It is a complete pack of lies, and that is very distressing and very damaging, and completely untrue."

They had done it "to humiliate, seduce, and set me up in some way". Their likely aim had been to test him, or put him in a difficult situation. "Having failed to do that, they may have been alarmed themselves that they would get into trouble, and therefore decided to make a fuss," he said.

The hearing continues today.

## Eiffel Tower shut by the height of bad manners

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THOUSANDS of tourists were turned away from the Eiffel Tower yesterday when employees went on strike over the sacking of an official tour guide after a violent altercation with a holidaymaker suffering from vertigo.

Christine Harvey, a best-selling American writer who runs a marketing company in West Drayton, west London, claimed she and her friend, Hilde Bartlett, were "physically abused" by a rude and aggressive employee at the Paris landmark on June 17.

Mrs Harvey had become scared on the way to the second level, which is 150 metres high. She had tried to get out of the lift as the doors were about to close and asked the guide to let them stay on the first level. The 60-year-old tower worker, who is specifically employed to welcome visitors, had refused and then allegedly berated and man-handled the women.

"When we tried to ask him about staying on the first level, he physically grabbed us by the shoulders, and shoved us a distance of one metre while shouting at us," Mrs Harvey wrote in a letter

of complaint to the director of the tower when she returned, shaken, to the Concorde-Lafayette Hotel.

The tower management launched an investigation into the incident and, after obtaining further evidence from eyewitnesses, sacked the employee on Tuesday. The unnamed man, who has worked at the tower for 13 years, was given two months' pay and an additional sum to take into account his personal situation.

His fellow workers promptly held a meeting to discuss the sacking and yesterday more than 50 of the tower's 180 employees went on strike, preventing access to the tower. The strikers claimed the guide had been the victim of unfair dismissal and insisted the incident had been exaggerated.

Hugues de Bailliencourt, assistant secretary-general of the New Eiffel Tower Company, a private concern that manages the tower, said yesterday: "This was a very serious act by this employee. It was quite unacceptable. There are limits. Does someone have to commit a strange-

lution before they can be sacked? It was entirely up to Mrs Harvey if she wanted to stay on the first level. That was her choice."

Mrs Harvey has written five books on international business which have been translated into 20 languages. The latest, *Secrets of World's Top Sales Performers*, sold 150,000 copies in America. Speaking from a hotel room in Los Angeles she declined to comment on the incident, saying: "It is all in the letters I wrote to the Eiffel Tower management."

Yesterday, unhappy tourists milled around beneath the tower as the boutiques selling souvenirs did a roaring trade. "It's a disaster," said Anne Wilkes, a teacher from Holly Lodge High School in Sandwell, near Birmingham. Miss Wilkes was accompanying 48 children from the school, who were left sweltering in the midday heat as she tried (and failed) to obtain an on-the-spot refund for pre-paid tickets to the tower. "They're terribly disappointed. This was going to be the climax of the holiday," Miss Wilkes said.



Tourists had to make do with a snack in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower yesterday

## Homeless may beg for questions as tourist guides

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

BEGGARS who have been accused of blighting the centre of Bath could soon be employed to help visitors to find their way around it. The city's environmental task force wants to transform six homeless people into "streetwise" guides, giving them each a salary, a uniform, a mobile phone and a comb.

Their salaries of £10,000 to £14,000 would be met from the Welfare to Work programme under the plan to be considered tomorrow by officials and Labour members of the city's hung council. Dozens of beggars are drawn to Bath each year by its 4.5 million tourists, and some beggars are already rumoured to be making up to £100 a day.

Del Herod, leader of the Labour group on the newly-formed Bath and North East Somerset Council, said of the plan: "The jobless and homeless are suited to this job for a number of reasons. They are available, and many of them have a quite detailed knowledge of the city."

They could direct people to the best places in which to sit out in the sun, and give advice about the best nightclubs. They would be more switched on than the more traditional guides.

A spokesman for the environmental task force prom-

ised that recruits would, after rehabilitation and training, be required to "conform to the highest possible standard of presentation" with "clean, combed hair". Approaches are being made to possible partners from private enterprise, and it is hoped the guides will be at work by Christmas.

However, Malcolm Hanney, leader of the council's Conservative group, said: "It is nonsensical to think this could be running by Christmas. It seems to me to be a half-baked idea." Graham Iles, president of Bath's Chamber of Commerce, said: "While the underlying idea is highly commendable, I have serious reservations as to how realistic it is."



Change of tune: a busker in Bath

## Field sports parents halt school visit

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A VISIT to a deer sanctuary by a group of primary school children has been cancelled after objections from parents who support field sports.

Some parents of pupils at Dulverton First School, on Exmoor, refused to allow their children on the trip to the 225-acre deer reserve run by the League Against Cruel Sports. A letter about the outing for 61 five to seven-year-olds arrived last Thursday as some parents were at the

Hyde Park rally to protest at government plans to ban field sports.

Charles Pope, head teacher of the 115-pupil school, said: "Many objected and indicated they would withdraw their children for the day. To maintain the school's impartiality in this issue we decided to change the venue. We regret that sensitive political issues have been introduced into a school event with an educational purpose." The pupils went instead on nature walks.

Graham Sirl, of the league, said: "The

children are not brought into our offices or shown the gory photographs of hunting or bombarded with propaganda. They go straight to the sanctuary to see the deer and visit the wildlife area. We do not promote the league, just the wildlife."

Mal Trehan, of the British Field Sports Society, said: "The League Against Cruel Sports is a political organisation and delivers a political message. I can well understand parents returning from the magnificent rally in London and not wanting their children to visit."

## Toast was premature for molester GP

NEWSPAPER photographs of a family doctor raising a glass of champagne to toast being cleared of sex charges prompted other patients to complain. Yesterday Regional Myint was jailed for nine months for indecently assaulting one of them.

Five women patients who felt that they, too, had been assaulted by Myint at his practice in Stockport com-

plained to police. All claimed that they were molested by Myint, 54, during intimate examinations carried out between 1978 and 1987. Last February Myint was convicted of indecent assault of one, cleared of charges against a second but had to be retried on allegations made by a third woman.

Yesterday at Minshall Street Crown Court, Man-

chester, the retrial jury - who were not told of the other conviction - acquitted Myint of the last charge. They were asked to leave the court shortly before Judge Jonathan Geake sentenced the doctor to nine months' imprisonment for indecently assaulting a woman now aged 50. Myint now faces being struck off.

Police began investigating Myint in March 1994 when

two of his women patients came forward to claim that he had indecently assaulted them.

The Crown Prosecution Service decided not to press charges, but Myint was brought before a disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council in January 1995 where he was cleared of serious professional misconduct.

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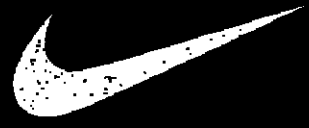
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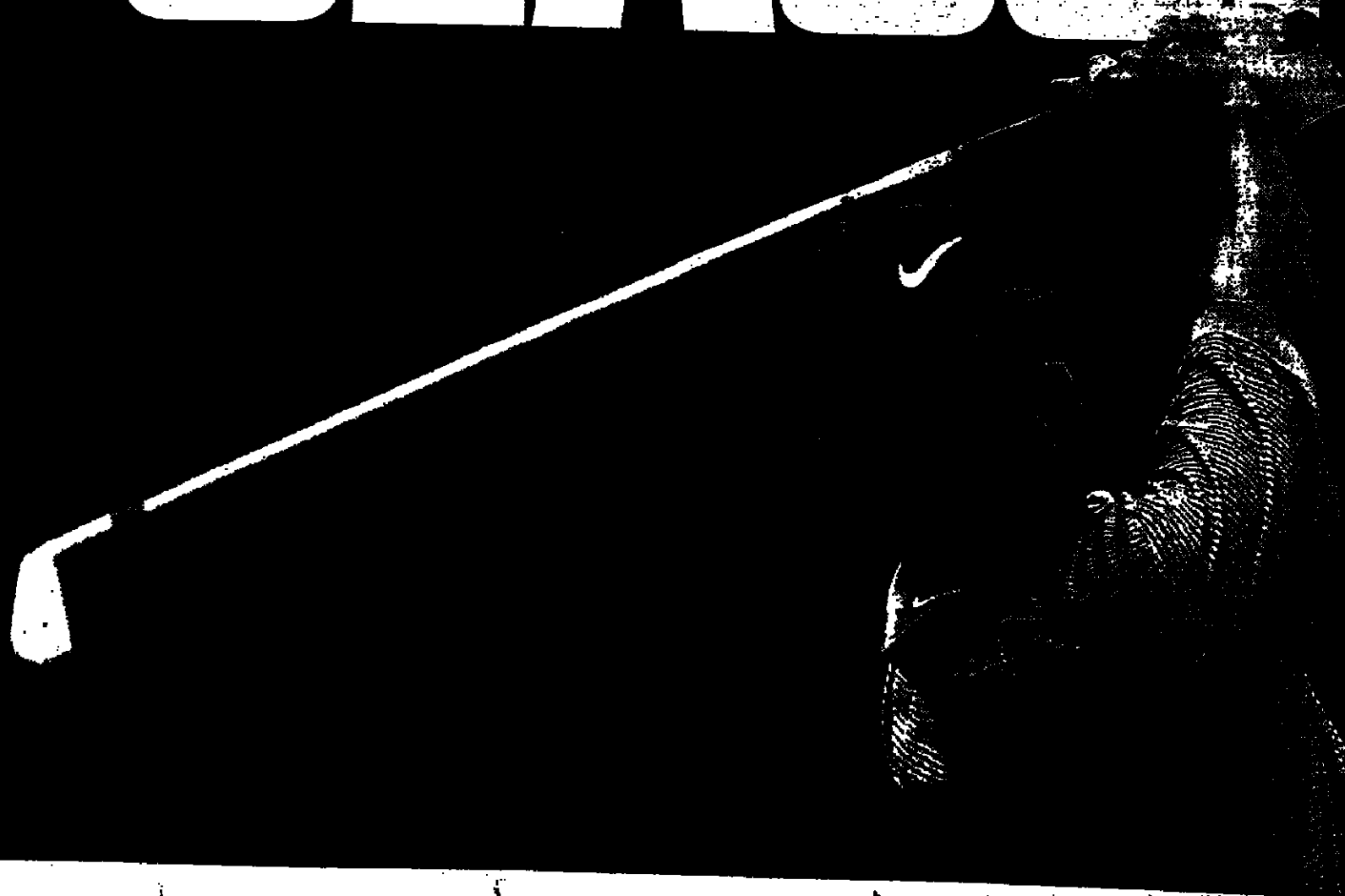
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# Judges tell vexatious priest: pray be silent

A CLERGYMAN was declared a vexatious litigant yesterday after launching legal proceedings 14 times in three years in his campaign to stop the ordination of women priests.

On an application brought by the Attorney-General, two High Court judges barred the Rev Paul Williamson from starting fresh proceedings or continuing existing ones without High Court permission. Although the judgment means the English and Welsh courts may have rid themselves of a turbulent priest, the Church of England was warned that it had not heard the last of him.

Mr Williamson, 49, who has accused the Archbishop of Canterbury of treason and the General Synod of heresy, said after the hearing: "I will pursue this matter with every fibre of my being while there is mortal breath in my body, *ad nauseam, ad infinitum, ad eternum*. St Thomas à Becket lost his life standing up to the King for what he believed. The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church. I commit my cause to my Lord and

Court bar put on opponent of women priests, reports Michael Horsnell

Saviour Jesus Christ." He was refused leave to appeal against the judgment of Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Jowitt but said that he would take his case to the European Court of Justice.

Mr Williamson, priest-in-charge of St George's Church, Feltham, west London, was backed in court by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. Mr Paisley said he believed that Mr Williamson had put to the courts a valid question involving the legal standing of the Coronation Oath.

"He was not being vexatious, but was trying to pursue a case which ought to be answered," Mr Paisley said. Mr Williamson, a single man from Caithness who was ordained 25 years ago, owes £22,000 in legal costs. The Church of England is understood to have spent more than £60,000 on its costs.

He maintains that the ordination of women breaches the

Coronation Oath. He says it was "an abuse of the Queen's assent and signature to procure a so-called validity for the measure and canon purporting to legalise heretical priestesses in the Church of England".

Ian Burnett, representing the Attorney-General, said Mr Williamson first launched proceedings in February 1994. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York had been accused of treason, and the Bishops of Southwark, Willesden and Bristol had also been targets.

Most recently he sought to overturn the appointment of the Rev Lucy Winkett as a minor canon at St Paul's Cathedral. Despite repeated court defeats, rebuffs and warnings from judges that his actions were becoming "repetitive and abusive", he had remained undeterred.

Mr Williamson told the High Court judges: "I have not sought to make myself obnox-

ious. I have come with fear and trembling to these courts, with no legal training. I have had to organise my life as a parish priest while at the same time sitting up through the night reading Halsbury's Statutes. I have done this out of sincere belief and I find this case against me very hurtful."

He said he had the greatest respect for the Queen and would be meeting her next week at a garden party.

Giving judgment, Mr Justice Jowitt said he accepted the sincerity of Mr Williamson's beliefs about the ordination of women, which were shared by many others. But the courts could not express any view on the doctrinal controversy because it was outside their remit. "He has now reached the end of the road as far as the courts are concerned. He has lost the legal battle. Unfortunately he will not accept this."

Mr Williamson delays the access of others to the courts, and the courts are entitled to protect their procedures from abuse by the vexatious and persistent litigant.

The Church of England declined to comment.



Ian Paisley at court with the Rev Paul Williamson

## Andrews claims fiance's family upset her in court

By JOANNA BAILE

TRACIE ANDREWS, accused of the murder of her fiancé, Lee Harvey, broke off from giving evidence yesterday to complain that his family were making remarks about her from the public gallery.

While answering questions from her lawyer, Ronald Thwaites, QC, Miss Andrews interrupted and said: "I'm sorry, I won't put up with remarks."

Mr Thwaites said he had not heard anything and asked what she meant. She indicated Mr Harvey's parents, Ray and Maureen, and relatives sitting in the front row of the public gallery. Mr Harvey's family have reserved seats in the public gallery, which has been packed throughout the trial.

The judge, Mr Justice Buckley, said he had not heard any remarks but said anyone who made comments in future would be asked to leave.

Miss Andrews, 28, of Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, finished giving evidence at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday. Later the court was told that a key

defence witness had a string of convictions, including an attempt to pervert the course of justice.

Stephen Rodenhurst, owner of a demolition company, said that he had been involved in a road-rage incident earlier on the day of Mr Harvey's murder, a few miles away. A man had threatened to stab him in the neck.

Mr Rodenhurst said he had contacted Miss Andrews's solicitors after seeing an E-fit of a man allegedly involved in Mr Harvey's murder.

David Crigman, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Rodenhurst had convictions dating back to 1979, including assault. He had served prison sentences and had been arrested and brought to the court yesterday after refusing to give evidence.

Mr Rodenhurst said that he had been unhappy with the approach of Miss Andrews's solicitors, but stood by his account of the road-rage incident.

Miss Andrews denies murder. The trial continues.

## Crossroads may be dead end for Parker Bowles

By ALAN HAMILTON

TODAY Camilla Parker Bowles celebrates her fiftieth birthday. An essentially insignificant milestone on the route of the average woman's life may turn out to be more of a crossroads for the close friend of the Prince of Wales.

The highlight of the celebrations happens tomorrow, when the Prince hosts a private but well-publicised party for Mrs Parker Bowles and a select group of friends at Highgrove, his Gloucestershire home. The event is the first firm acknowledgement of their relationship since the Prince's public confession of adultery on television.

Guests are expected to include the small circle of acquaintances who are in touch with both parties: the Earl and Countess of Shelburne, the Earl and Countess of Halifax, the Palmer-Tomkinsons, and possibly Mrs Parker Bowles's sister Annabel, and her two children, Laura, 18, and Tom, 21, the latter now an undergraduate at Oxford.

However, no member of the Prince's family is thought to have been invited, certainly not his sons and not even his sister, the Princess Royal, to whom he is reasonably close

and who lives near by. The imbalance only serves to underline the fact that the couple's relationship remains essentially undercover.

There has been some speculation that tomorrow's party will mark an end to secrecy, and that Mrs Parker Bowles will henceforth be seen and mentioned in public as the Prince's *de facto* companion. Sources close to the Prince deny any such thing and play down any suggestion that the couple's relationship may be placed on a more public footing. The Prince's senior staff are said to be terrified at the prospect.

Nor is there any real evidence, as has been suggested, of a concerted campaign by Mrs Parker Bowles's few close associates to make her more publicly acceptable, although they do admit that she now leads an impossible life.

"Constant attention from the paparazzi means she cannot go shopping, or take a walk, or any other normal activity. She has had to learn how to go to ground," one source said yesterday. "She is at a crossroads in her life: she is divorced, associated with a man who probably cannot and will not ever marry her, and her prospects are not at all clear."

Mrs Parker Bowles is acknowledged by those who know her as a notably tough character, a trait inherited from her father, Bruce Shand, a tough old warrior now aged 80, who won a double Military Cross and demanded a hip replacement in his late 70s so that he could continue to ride to hounds.

For all her toughness, Mrs Parker Bowles may find that, as she reaches the crossroads today, all the obvious options may turn out to be blind alleys.



Parker Bowles: party for selected friends

## Princess plans charity trip to Hong Kong

DIANA, Princess of Wales, is to pay a private visit to Hong Kong in September to support a local hospice charity, making her the first member of the Royal Family to visit since the handover to China (Alan Hamilton writes).

The announcement was made by her office at Kensington Palace as the Princess and her sons continued their holiday in the South of France as guests of Mohamed Al Fayed.

During her two-day visit to the former colony, the Princess will attend a dinner and

gala evening to raise money for the Society for the Promotion of Hospice Care. The Princess will also open a bereavement counselling centre for the charity. On route she will attend a function in Singapore for an AIDS charity.

Her Far East trip is regarded as entirely private and she will not be representing the British Government. The Foreign Office and Buckingham Palace are understood to have given the trip their full approval.

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# Police fight for more cameras as road deaths fall

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS were in conflict with senior police officers last night over a Government refusal to let speeding fines pay for more spy cameras on dangerous roads.

The first detailed research into the impact of the speed cameras suggested yesterday that they contributed to a 70 per cent fall in deaths and marked reductions in the number and seriousness of accidents. Launching London's 400th camera site, near Ealing, west London, Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, said: "Enforcement cameras have given a major boost to road safety. To those who say that speed in itself is not the cause of accidents, I urge you to look carefully at the results."

However, he insisted that

£8 million collected in fines as a direct result of the cameras must be paid into the Treasury, and could not be retained by police to expand the network. The money for extra cameras would have to be found from existing budgets.

Police acknowledge privately that growing pressure on resources has led to less frequent maintenance of cameras and to moving them less often among the 1,800 sites. Industry sources say that only one in eight sites houses a working camera. "The trick is to know where the seven are," said an electronics expert.

Ministers argue that a fixed-penalty system in which fines are paid to police forces rather than central Government would effectively decriminalise speeding. The Treasury is also reluctant to

give up its power to collect fines centrally, fearing it would set a precedent for other penalties imposed by courts.

The cameras cost about £30,000 to buy and install, with a further £8,000 a year in maintenance. The research suggested that, even in the small survey area, they had saved about £60 million on accident costs, such as hospital treatment and insurance payouts for deaths.

There are almost 2,000 camera sites across Britain, installed by the Highways Agency and local authorities, and maintained by the police. Forces now have the power to install cameras themselves, but officers admit that they do not even have the resources to keep changing the film. Up to two thirds of cameras are not loaded to take photographs.

Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, of the Police Superintendents' Association, said of the report: "This is remarkable evidence. It's certainly something we'll be taking up with the Home Office, and I think chief constables will redouble their efforts."

The AA said that cameras could be put to greater use, and called for better locations and greater resources. Andrew Howard, its head of road safety, said: "Cameras are there to cut speed and reduce accidents, not just to generate income for the Treasury."



London's 400th speed camera at Ealing: police say that cash shortages mean that some may contain no film

## Chasing speed led to slower traffic

By OUR TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE flashing camera that brings motorists out in a cold sweat owes its infancy to a driver intent on breaking any vulnerable speed record. Maurice Gatsonides, a Dutch racing driver, is the inspiration behind the camera, nicknamed the Gatso in his memory.

Gatsonides, a past winner of the Monte Carlo rally, developed the "Gatsometer" in 1953 to give him accurate information on his practice times. Although his system failed to help him improve his times, it proved so

successful in recording his lap times that police in Amsterdam asked him to design a version that could be used to combat speeding.

Gatsonides, now 88, oversees a business that has exported the cameras to more than 20 countries, including the America. However, he is unable to claim responsibility for the original idea. An anonymous Parisian in 1900 was anxious to prove that road speed was a growing danger. Using a complex sequence of photographs and timings, he sent evidence to the Prefect of Police of vehicles reaching speeds of up to 100mph.

Britain was slow to take up the speed camera, although from 1987 cameras were used to spot traffic-light offences, the first being installed in Nottingham. The passage of the 1991 Road Traffic Act enabled the introduction of speed cameras in 1992, the first being installed on the A316 Twickenham Bridge in west London.

Servo, a Gloucester-based company that provides a range of public sector services, is the British agent for the Gatso, whose use to catch speeding drivers is expected to increase dramatically during the next five years.

### FATAL ACCIDENTS DOWN TWO THIRDS

THE report published yesterday gives the most detailed analysis of the accident rate on busy roads before and after the introduction of speed cameras.

The Highways Agency looked at ten west London roads, comparing three years from October 1992 with the previous 36 months. It found that after cameras were introduced the number of fatal accidents was 19, against 62

in the previous three years. The number of serious accidents fell by more than a quarter, from 666 to 483.

There was a less marked reduction in minor accidents, from 3,074 to 2,832. Overall, the number of speed-related accidents dropped by nearly two thirds, from 470 to 166.

There are now 400 cameras on the capital's trunk roads to record speeding and traffic light and junction offences.

## Keeping cars in tune is safer

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

LISTENING to music in the car makes people better drivers — but only if the volume is kept low.

Researchers have found that people who drive to the accompaniment of pop and rock music have better reaction times and can avoid hazards more skilfully than those who drive in silence. But those who drove with the volume turned up braked far slower when objects such as a child running out into the street came into view.

Psychologists at the University of Sydney decided to study the effects of music and driving after pulling up at traffic lights next to car shaking with a

"ghetto-blasting" stereo system with a heavy bass.

The researchers recruited 60 men and women aged between 20 and 28 to see how they fared on simulated driving tests under three noise conditions: silence, rock music played at 55 decibels and the same music blaring at 85 decibels. The guinea-pigs were asked to sit in front of a simulator with a steering wheel and accelerator and brake foot-pedals. They had to track a moving disc on screen, respond to traffic lights, and brake in response to arrows that appeared without warning, according to *New Scientist*.

Tracking the disc proved no problem for any of the "drivers". But under the loud and quiet music they braked at a red light 50 milliseconds faster than when no music was playing. The scientists point out that this could mean a difference in braking distance of a couple of metres.

One of the biggest differences was between people hearing loud music and those hearing quiet music. In response to objects intruding on their peripheral vision, those people hearing the loud music were about 100 milliseconds slower at braking than those listening to quiet music.

## Sleepy drivers 'like drunks'

By OUR TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE deprived of sleep for a couple of nights behave as if they are drunk drivers, scientists have found.

Researchers at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in Woodville, South Australia, tested 40 people. One group was given increasing amounts of alcohol and the other progressively deprived of sleep. They were then tested on skills such as hand and eye coordination.

After 17 hours, those in the group without sleep behaved

like people with a blood alcohol level of 0.05 per cent which is equal to the drink-driving limit in many countries. After 24 hours of "sustained wakefulness", their coordination dropped to an alcohol intake equivalent to 0.10 per cent.

Some experts have voiced concern over a link between accidents among shift workers and "sleeping patterns". "As about 50 per cent of shift workers do not sleep on the day before the first night shift,

and levels of fatigue on subsequent night shifts can be even higher, our data indicate that the performance impairment associated with shift work could be even greater than reported here," the scientists say in *Nature*.

The researchers, led by Drew Dawson, at the hospital's centre for sleep research, believe that their findings will allow sleep deprivation to be expressed as a blood/alcohol equivalent.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Spielberg film extras catch chill

Irish soldiers employed as extras in a recreation of the D-Day invasion for a new film directed by Steven Spielberg have become unwell, two with suspected hypothermia. More than 50 men were exposed to the elements of the Irish Sea for up to two hours as scenes were being shot for the £45 million epic *Saving Private Ryan*, starring Tom Hanks.

Most of the men, playing American GIs, suffered chills, colds and sore throats but two were admitted to hospital in Wexford with suspected hypothermia. They were treated for exposure and released after half an hour.

#### Death damages

The family of a woman who died after a hospital needlessly gave her drugs to delay labour was awarded £226,000 at the High Court. West Kent Health Authority admitted treating Debbie Coram, 20, of Rainham, negligently.

#### IRA charges

Two men were charged in Dublin with the murder of Jerry McCabe, a policeman shot during an IRA raid on a postal van last year. Jeremiah Sheehy, 36, and Michael O'Neill, 46, were also charged with membership of the IRA.

#### Lake health alert

Bathers and watersports enthusiasts have been barred from Lough Leane, one of the Lakes of Killarney in the west of Ireland, because of a potentially lethal blue-green algae, believed to be caused by human or farm effluent.

#### Raid victim ill

A 94-year-old man was in hospital after having a heart attack while burglars ransacked his home. Kenneth Fisher, of Redcar, dialled 999 but the thieves fled before police arrived. A clock was stolen.

#### Baby's escape

Nine-month-old Jade Lindsay escaped with minor cuts after being thrown through the passenger window of a car, still strapped into her safety seat. She landed on a traffic island 20ft away after the crash in Rochdale.

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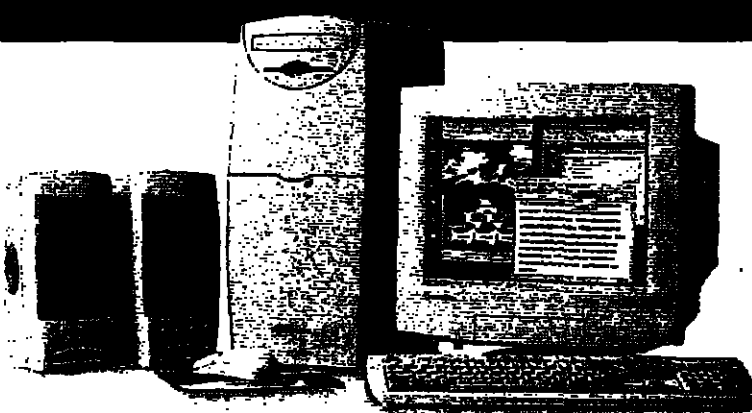
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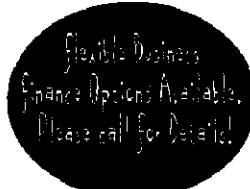
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سكز امت الاصل



# Port staff to be charged over Sea Empress

Errors highlighted in report include communication failures and lack of equipment, Arthur Leathley reports

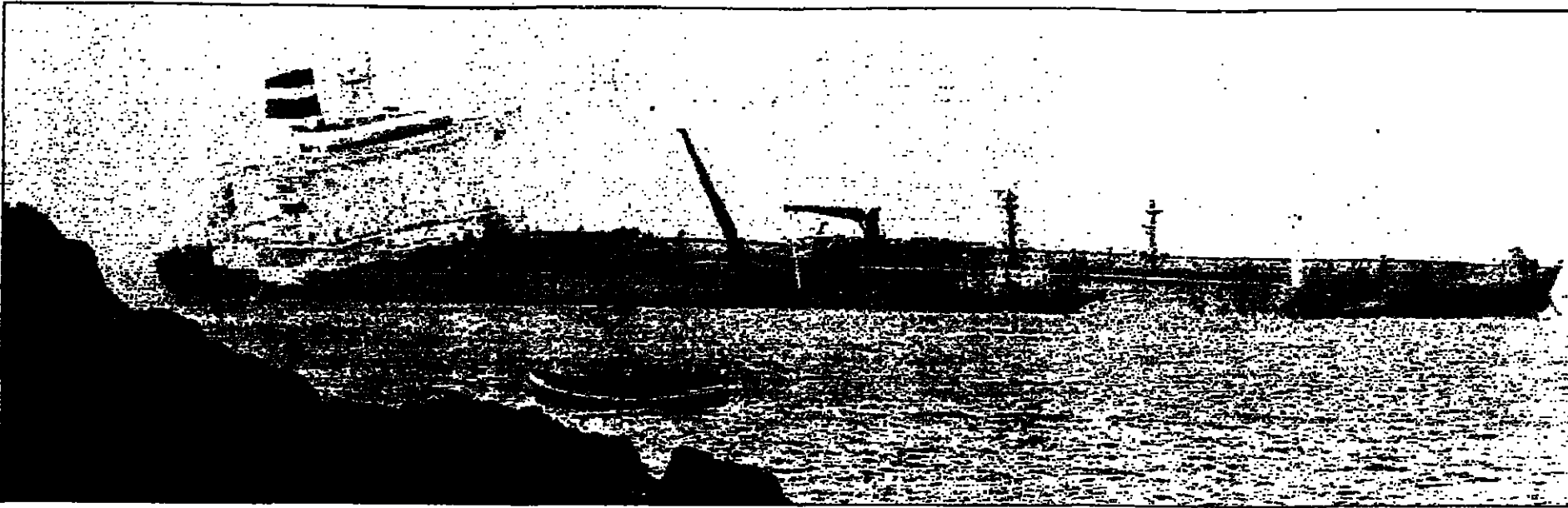
CRIMINAL charges are to be brought against senior harbour managers over the *Sea Empress* oil disaster last year. A string of errors and communication failures led to serious delays in trying to stem the flow of 72,000 tonnes of crude oil from the stricken ship. Huge stretches of the South Wales coast were contaminated.

A highly critical report published yesterday prompted the Environment Agency to take the rare step of prosecuting both Mark Andrews, the harbourmaster who was on duty during the incident, and Milford Haven Port Authority. The decision to bring criminal charges underlined the severity that the Environment Agency attached to the spillage, which killed or injured more than 7,000 seabirds. The penalty for conviction under the Water Resources Act is a maximum of three months in prison and a fine of £20,000 if the case is heard by magistrates, or a two-year sentence or unlimited fine if the case goes to a Crown Court. The charges allege that public nuisance was caused by failures to control the spillage.



Andrews was on duty during the incident

Friends of the Earth, which is still considering bringing a private prosecution against the Government, called for former ministers to be brought to court to explain the reason for shortages of equipment. It took six days to rescue the ship after it had been removed from rocks but ran aground a second time.



The *Sea Empress*, which ran aground in February last year, spilling 72,000 tonnes of crude oil into the sea off Milford Haven. Thousands of seabirds were harmed

Yesterday, the final report by the Transport Department's marine accident investigation branch made clear that there were widespread failures, starting with mistakes made by the pilot guiding the tanker into Milford Haven. There were insufficient tugs of the right power and manoeuvrability, and a lack of full understanding of the tidal currents in the area, the report concluded.

After the initial stages of the accident in February 1996, "the incident was outside the scope of Milford Haven Port Authority's emergency plans", the report said. It added that the onshore management team "became too large and unwieldy to cope with a rapidly moving salvage incident" and suggested that the Government should have been advised by a commercial salvage expert.

The 147,000-tonne Liberian-registered tanker had sailed from Scotland and was being guided into the port by John Pearn. The report said the pilot failed to take action to keep the vessel in the deepest part of the middle channel leading into the port. It added: "The pilot's error was due in part to inadequate training and experience in the piloting of large tankers."

The report said that the standards of training and examination of pilots at Milford Haven were unsatisfactory. The investigation branch also said there was a "confrontational relationship between the authority and the pilot" and this could not be "conducive to the safe operation of the port".

Mr Pearn was found guilty of incompetence at a Milford Haven Port Authority inquiry last year and was demoted. But he successfully appealed against the decision and was able to resume working with large tankers.

The long-term damage caused by the *Sea Empress* oil spillage is still being evaluated, but conservationists generally agree that it has not been as bad as feared. The main concern is the lingering effect on bird and fish life.

## Dolphins in wild use sponges as tools

BY NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

DOLPHINS may be even brighter than scientists had supposed after the discovery that, like people and apes, they use tools in the wild.

American scientists have spotted dolphins using sponges as tools in Shark Bay, Western Australia. The researchers believe animals employ the sponges to ward off attackers or to find food. Five female dolphins, sponges observed carrying sponges around on the tips of their snouts.

The researchers, from the University of Michigan, believe the sponges may protect dolphins searching for food on the seabed from the hazardous spines and stings of creatures such as stonefish and stingrays.

They may also help them find food. "They may be dragging the sponges along the seafloor to stir up prey," said Rachel Smolker, who led the research. The observations, published in the journal *Ethology*, are thought to be the first evidence of practical use of tools by dolphins in the wild.

Mark Simmonds, a marine scientist at the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society in Bath, said the findings were extremely interesting. In captivity, dolphins could be taught to balance objects on their noses or pull levers. In the wild they had been seen playing with floating seaweed, plastic or netting.

Of the new study, he said: "The important point is that it's not play behaviour, it seems to be serving some useful purpose."

## A day out with all the fun of the queue

BY OUR TECHNOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

THE noble and patient British pastime of queuing was given a new lease of life yesterday. It seems that people can actually be persuaded to enjoy it.

Researchers in a study of fairground rides at Alton Towers, Staffordshire, found that queuing could enhance the enjoyment of a visit. A report in *New Scientist* magazine said: "So successful is the queue system that peak visitors will wait up to an hour to get on the star attraction, the Nemesis Ride, and hardly seem to notice."

The trick was to manipulate perceptions about the length of the queue and whether it was worth the wait. A queue must twist "this way and that, making its true length impossible to judge". It must be designed so that those waiting were exposed to those who had come off the ride, to raise the level of anticipation.

Closed-circuit cameras picked out queue jumpers, and stopped them just as they got to the top of the queue. Dr Robert Mathews of Aston University said: "Transgressors are allowed to get away with their actions all the way up to the ride, before being stopped and invited to go to the end again."

The result is that people actually prefer to wait rather than get on a ride immediately. Liz Greenwood, a spokeswoman for Alton Towers, said: "We found that quiet days, when people can get straight on the rides were scoring lower enjoyment than busy days when people have to wait 15 to 20 minutes."

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# Clark mends his 'monstrous' ways for Tory TV series

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ALAN CLARK promised yesterday that his television history of the Tory party will spare his colleagues the kind of "monstrous" treatment he meted out in his political diaries.

Mr Clark, who became MP for Kensington and Chelsea at the general election after a five-year break from the Commons, ends his BBC2 series with the Tories' landslide defeat on May 1. But the former Defence Minister, who called Kenneth Clarke a "pudgy puffball" and Michael Heseltine "that dreadful charlatan" in his acerbic diaries, said that he would not be beastly to his fellow MPs this time. The programme was intended as a serious chronicle of the party.

"I have written about my colleagues in the most monstrous way and they have welcomed me back, for which I am most grateful," he said at the launch of BBC2's £75 million autumn schedule. "This is totally different from the diaries, which were an instant

recall of things in an uninhibited way. It is not a post mortem."

His approach appears not to have been influenced by any desire to rejoin the Tory party's front bench, which he said was like "the Latvian Government in 1943". During the Second World War Germany occupied Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, rendering their governments impotent.

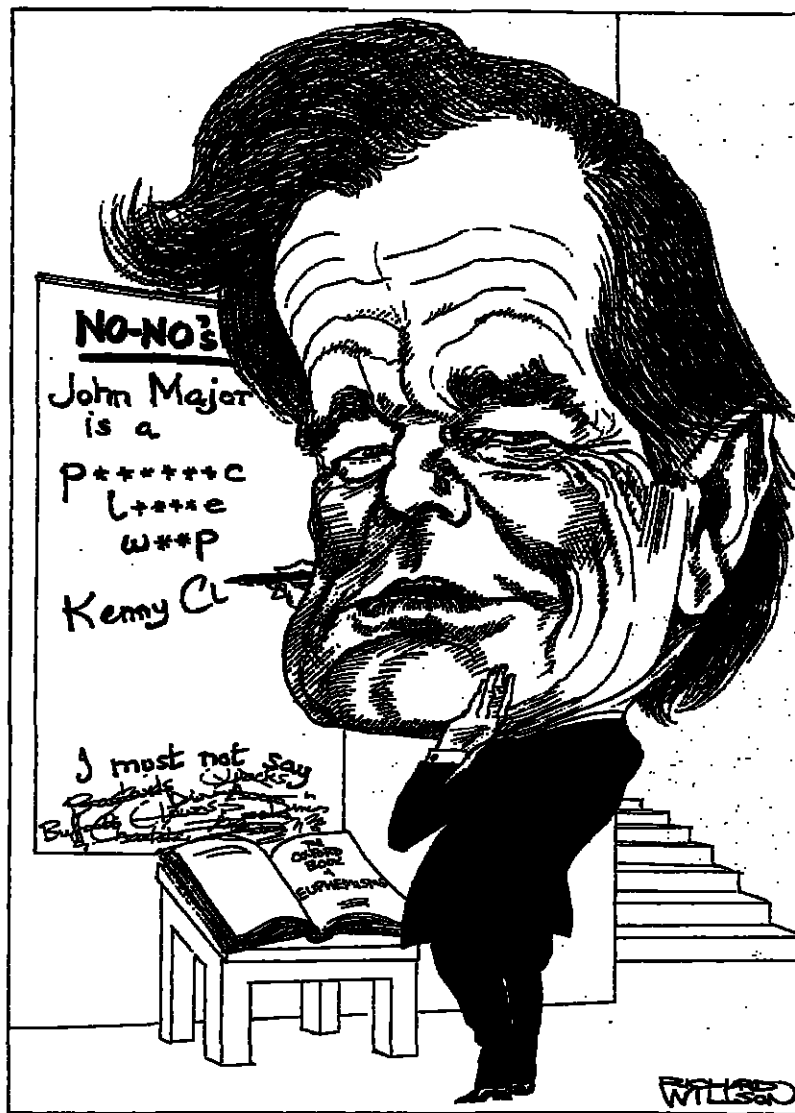
Mr Clark denied that his return to the Commons created a conflict of interest. "No-one has ever accused me of not being objective and the series is an objective history of the Conservative Party from which people will have to draw their own conclusions. It is up to people to decide what they think of me as a TV presenter."

The first part of *Alan Clark's History of the Tory Party* covers 1922-39 from Stanley Baldwin's emergence as leader of the divided party to Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler and Winston Churchill's entry into the Cabinet. The second claims to

shed new light on Churchill. Mr Clark repeats his controversial views that Churchill broke the bank, lost the empire and neglected domestic affairs and politics to the detriment of his party. Part three includes the decline of Tory fortunes under Edward Heath and the challenge mounted by Margaret Thatcher. The final episode charts Mrs Thatcher's leadership to years to the catastrophic election defeat this year.

Mr Clark declined to reveal his assessment of John Major's tenure as Prime Minister because the series was based on a book, due out this autumn, for which he had not yet negotiated the serial rights.

The autumn schedule also features two former Tory Cabinet ministers. Michael Portillo presents a programme next month in which he reports on Tory infighting in the 19th century and the Tory wilderness years. In November Douglas Hurd presents *The Search for Peace*, a reflection on major wars this century.



## How Blair can benefit from gesture on PR

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Tony Blair is helping himself as well as Paddy Ashdown in deciding to press ahead with legislation for proportional representation in the European Parliament elections in 1999. The use of first-past-the-post for Euro-elections has been increasingly anomalous. This is not merely because Britain is the only country to retain the system in face of pressure for a uniform electoral approach throughout Europe based on PR. The Tories successfully defeated these calls after direct elections were introduced in 1979. This was based on a defence of single-member constituencies, as well as the familiar conservative argument of the "wedge" — the fear that conceding PR for the European elections would increase the pressure for it at Westminster.

The winner-take-all nature of first-past-the-post exaggerates the impact of shifts in votes, as we saw on May 1 when Labour won 63 per cent of the seats on nearly 44 per cent of the vote. This leverage is even greater with the Euro-seats, which include seven or eight Westminster seats. In the European elections, the Tories won 60 out of 78 seats in Britain in 1979 on just over 50 per cent of the total vote. By 1994, the tables had been turned. Labour won 62 out of 84 seats (again excluding Northern Ireland) with 44 per cent of the vote.

In David Butler and Martin Westlake's *British Politics and European Elections 1994*, John Curcio and Michael Steed estimate what the outcome would have been then if a regional list system had been used. This would allocate seats proportionally according to voter preferences within 11 regions. This still helps larger parties compared to a national PR system. Although Labour would have 18 fewer Euro-MPs than now, the party would still have 44 seats, or 52 per cent, 8 percentage points more than its share of the vote.

So a switch to a regional list system would mean fewer Labour MPs. However, under first-past-the-post Labour will almost certainly lose seats in June 1999, near the mid-point of the Parliament. If Labour is as unpopular then as previous governments have

been in their mid-terms, it might paradoxically have more seats under PR than it would have as a result of the exaggerated swings produced by first-past-the-post. So PR may be a cushion to the inevitable swing against the Government.

A regional list system would give power to the party leadership which controls the lists. Some existing Labour MEPs have been distinctly off-mess in their willingness to challenge Mr Blair's approach and to express their "old" Labour views. Few years would be shed in Millbank Tower at a culling of the MEPs.

The uncertainty about the Bill has been all rather odd since Labour has been committed for some time to changing the electoral system in 1999 (most recently in its joint statement with the Liberal Democrats) and everyone has known the need for rapid action in view of the tight timetable. The Liberal Democrat leadership is pleased with the Government's move, not least because it vindicates Mr Ashdown's decision not to make a public fuss and trust that Mr Blair would deliver, what is primarily known as "constructive opposition". The two leaders talked on their visit to Hong Kong two weeks ago, particularly during a refuelling stop in Siberia.

The next stage is the proposed commission to produce a PR alternative to first-past-the-post for Westminster, to be put to a referendum later in the Parliament. The Liberal Democrats are not banging the table and setting deadlines. Mr Blair remains very cool to PR for Westminster, so an announcement is unlikely before the autumn. But, for the moment, Mr Blair has made a friendly gesture, albeit one that helps him too.

PETER RIDDELL

### IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Attorney-General; Council Tax (England) (Minimum Amount) Order; backbench debate on regeneration of Thames, in the Lords: Education (Schools) Bill, report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Government's assessment of progress in meeting Manchester treaty provisions; debate on future of Birmingham hospitals.

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة



## Fundholder patients must join the queue

**QUEUE-JUMPING** by patients of fundholding doctors is to be stopped from next April, when hospitals will have to admit people for treatment solely on the basis of medical need.

The Prime Minister, announcing an end to privileged treatment for the 60 per cent of patients who have fundholding GPs, told the Commons: "It is based on two simple ideas — rebuilding the NHS and fairness, neither of which the Conservative Party understand."

Answering an emergency question, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said the fundholding system created by the Tory Government was "unfair to patients, repugnant to the doctors and nurses who had to apply it, and cost a fortune in extra paperwork."

"At the general election we promised to restore fairness to the health service, end the two-tier system and ensure that access to treatment is based on need and need alone. We pledged to change the system so that no patients and no GP practices suffered any longer from the unfairness introduced by the Conservatives."

He said that all NHS trusts must operate a fair waiting list for urgent admissions, regardless of who is commissioning the care. The waiting time standards will, nevertheless, vary between health authorities with each of them setting its own maximum

**Hospitals will admit only on basis of need,**

**Ian Murray reports**

waiting time standards common to all residents. Within these common standards, admission of residents for non-emergency treatment must be on the basis of clinical priority, regardless of the GP.

Trusts will not be able to offer preferential admission to patients of GP fundholders, and fundholders will not be able to press for faster treatment except on clinical grounds.

The change will not always be to the detriment of fundholders' patients. This is because although 60 per cent of health authorities have shorter waiting times for the patients of fundholders, 37 per cent have shorter lists for non-fundholders' patients.

Clive Parr, general manager of the National Association of Fundholding Practices, said that he welcomed the change. "The only thing we want to ensure is that this provides a genuine levelling up and not a levelling down of the service," he said. "It must not be the case that care is levelled down in order to make this possible."

"This can only be done if health

authorities adopt the principles of fundholders. Authorities cannot continue to buy a block of treatment for unnamed patients but will need to track each patient to ensure each person gets the care they need. Block contracts can be cheaper, but it is impossible with them to tell if the care is going to the right person or if the bill is correct."

The British Medical Association also welcomed the Government's statement but said that equity for all must not mean equity at the lower end of the scale. "We want to see that patients of non-fundholding GPs have the same opportunity for enhanced treatment as those from fundholding practices," Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the association's GPs' committee, said. "This is an opportunity for levelling up, not levelling down."

Philip Hunt, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, which speaks for all health authorities and hospitals, said that the principle of equitable treatment was clearly right but that health authorities and GPs would need to work together to sort out priorities. "It will be essential to ensure that GPs have an important role to play in influencing the quality of treatment to be given to patients," he said.

Leading article, page 19



Femme assise dans un fauteuil, painted by Picasso in 1913

## A dozen Picassos released for sale

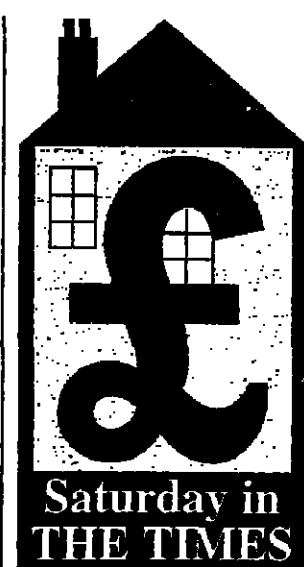
By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A DOZEN spectacular paintings by Picasso are to be sold as part of a collection described as the most important private holding of 20th-century art offered at auction.

More than £80 million is expected to be paid for 115 paintings, drawings, sculptures and prints that also include more recent modern masters such as the Pop artists Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg.

The highlights are Picasso's poignant *Femme assise dans un fauteuil* of 1913, regarded as one of the most powerful nude depictions of the early 20th century, estimated at £12 million; and *Le Réve*, one of his exquisite portraits, estimated at £20 million.

The collection was put together by a New York couple, Victor and Sally Ganz, who made their fortune in costume jewellery and championed artists long before they were known. The works will be sold by Christie's on November 10.



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## London's health care 'near collapse'

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON's health system is in danger of collapse unless there is much better co-operation between its 68 hospital trusts, 16 health authorities and 32 boroughs.

The health warning comes in a report by the King's Fund, the leading independent think-tank on health policy. Dr John Pattison, of University College Medical School, and vice-chairman of the fund, says London's diversity has created defensive parochialism and destructive competitiveness among health providers. Plans to rationalise and close hospitals, put forward in the Tomlinson Report five years ago, have stalled because of "institutional resistance".

The fund says that apart from the difficulties in providing suitable hospital services, primary care is under great strain, mental care is less well provided than anywhere else in Britain, and large areas of inner city poverty create enormous problems of their own.

The Government is conducting its own review of London's health needs, but the report does not call for a new system, rather better co-operation between the existing health providers. It suggests health and social service budgets should be pooled to help to spread the available resources. It calls for a public health strategy covering the capital to improve living conditions, the environment, transport and hygiene. Most important of all are the provision of more facilities to look after the mentally ill and ageing populations.

## Drink toll blamed on increase in divorce

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A RISE in deaths from drink-related diseases is probably linked to Britain's divorce rate, which is the highest in Europe, a leading specialist in alcohol dependency said yesterday.

Launching the first guidelines to help doctors to identify and to treat heavy drinkers, Dr Jonathan Chick, a consultant psychiatrist and senior lecturer at Edinburgh University, said that alcohol was increasingly a problem among single parents and people living on their own.

"The number of people dying from alcohol-related diseases has doubled in Britain in the past decade, whereas the rate has fallen in America and many European countries. A partial explanation of this seems to be that Britain has the highest divorce rate in Europe, with a growing proportion of people living alone," he said.

Up to 30 per cent of male admissions and 15 per cent of female admissions to surgical and medical wards are for alcohol-related diseases. The UK Alcohol Forum, set up by doctors and health-care professionals, decided that guidelines for doctors were needed because of the relative lack of medical training in identifying heavy drinkers.

They tell a doctor how to assess alcohol dependence by asking a series of questions. Based on this information, the doctor can decide whether to ask for laboratory tests to find out how seriously the addiction has affected the patient's health.

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# Santer maps out new 21-member EU and key spending reforms

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASSBOURG

THE map of a new 21-member European Union, with borders reaching the Russian frontier, was laid out to EU states yesterday along with radical spending reforms intended to limit the burden of absorbing five relatively poor former Communist states and Cyprus into the Western bloc.

Britain hailed the "Agenda 2000" plan, announced by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, as the opening of a new chapter in the history of the European Union.

"We must grasp this historic opportunity to enhance security and prosperity throughout Europe," Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said. "We now have an opportunity both to end the divisions which have scarred our continent since the last war and to shape new policies which will bring benefits to our citizens."

Britain, one of the most enthusiastic supporters of expanding the EU to the former Soviet bloc countries, takes over the rotating EU presidency in January in time to lead the opening of negotiations with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia and Cyprus. The Commission's choice of the five European countries must first be endorsed by EU leaders at a December summit.

Only one in the EU's 40-year history have governments endorsed the Commission's choice for new member. That came in 1963 when France vetoed Britain's first application to join.

Cyprus, whose prospective membership is already drawing threats from Turkey, was promised an automatic place at negotiations in 1995. The EU wants the breakaway Turkish part of the Mediterranean island to be included in accession talks. Intense diplomacy under way to resolve the 23-year-old division with the Greek-Cypriot Government of Cyprus. Turkey, which has been trying to join the EU for a quarter of a century, was given a consolation prize yesterday of a promise of closer association.



Britain would also use its presidency to forge ahead with the Commission's proposals to reform the common agricultural policy (CAP), which swallows nearly half the EU budget, and the system of regional aid which takes 40 per cent, Mr Cook said. "To be affordable, all existing member states will have to accept a lower level of receipts in the next century," he said.

Britain will, however, resist any attempt to reopen the question of its rebate on its contributions to the EU budget, won by Margaret Thatcher after a five-year battle in the 1980s. The Commission yesterday raised the prospect of ending the arrangement if the costs of expansion rose beyond its estimates.

The Commission's tightly-budgeted plan prompted scepticism among members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, where Mr Santer presented it. Many voiced doubts about the Commission's optimistic assumption that the economies of the 15 would grow by 2.5 per cent a year until 2006 and the Eastern applicants by more than 4 per cent.

This will be necessary to keep the EU's overall spending below the EU's current 1.27 per cent ceiling of GDP. Mr Santer, who is staking his reputation on the "Agenda 2000" scheme, promised to keep the cost of expansion below that ceiling, which would apply to the EU's next spending programme, from 2000-2006.

Mr Santer and the Commission's 1,200-page package were reticent about predicting the likely date for the biggest and most politically challenging expansion in the EU's history. "Around about 2002," was the closest Santer estimate.

The lack of deadlines reflects the widespread qualms among EU governments over embarking too quickly on an expensive remake of the

Union that will inevitably end its days as a cosy club of prosperous nations. France and other founder nations are banking on the launch of monetary union in 1999 as the key to ensuring the existence of a close-knit core of members who will resist the dilution of the European enterprise.

None of the successful European applicants passed the full entrance test, which requires a functioning democracy, market economy and ability to assume the responsibilities of the single market, monetary union and all other EU rules. The Commission urged all to make more effort. Estonia, the Baltic state that led the breakup of the Soviet Union, must integrate the stateless Russian minority of its population, the Commission said. Poland, the biggest of the new entrants, must tackle its huge farm sector.

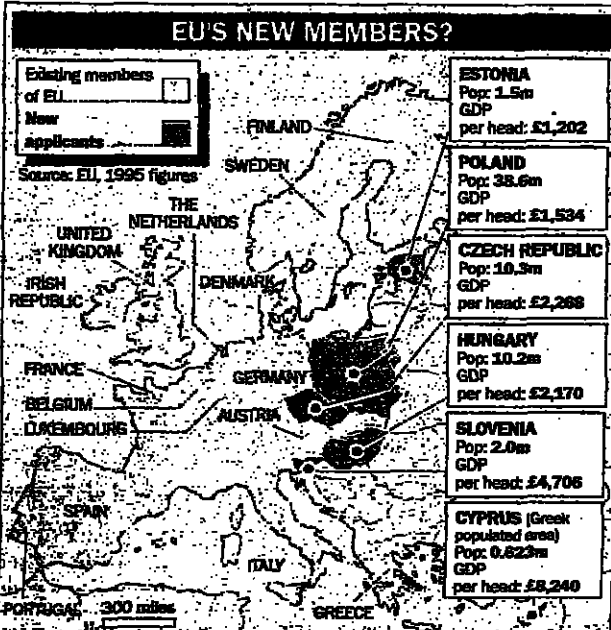
The Commission took pains, however, to insist that it was keeping the door open for later entry by the five other applicants which it had ruled out as unready for EU membership: Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania. Their cases will be reviewed annually.

Mr Santer also called for a new inter-governmental conference, or IGC, to start within little more than a year, to tackle the reforms to the EU's decision-making machinery that EU leaders failed to settle at Amsterdam last month.

Mr Cook said Britain also supported the Commission's proposals to help to pay for the Central and Eastern European countries to complete their transition from state-commanded economies to democratic market economies. Calling for a "veritable Marshall plan", Mr Santer estimated that £50 billion would be needed to help to integrate the five.

The figure testifies to the far more complex nature of joining the EU compared with the relatively low-cost entry to Nato, which embraced Budapest, Warsaw and Prague.

Leading article, page 19



## Farmers hail wider market for exports

BY CHARLES BREMNER AND MICHAEL HORNEBY

BRITAIN'S farmers are expected to welcome the shake-up in farm spending caused by the European Union's expansion.

"On the whole it will be good for the United Kingdom," a senior EU farm official said. "Britain sells

abroad more than most and one of the big changes will be an end to curbs on exports outside the EU."

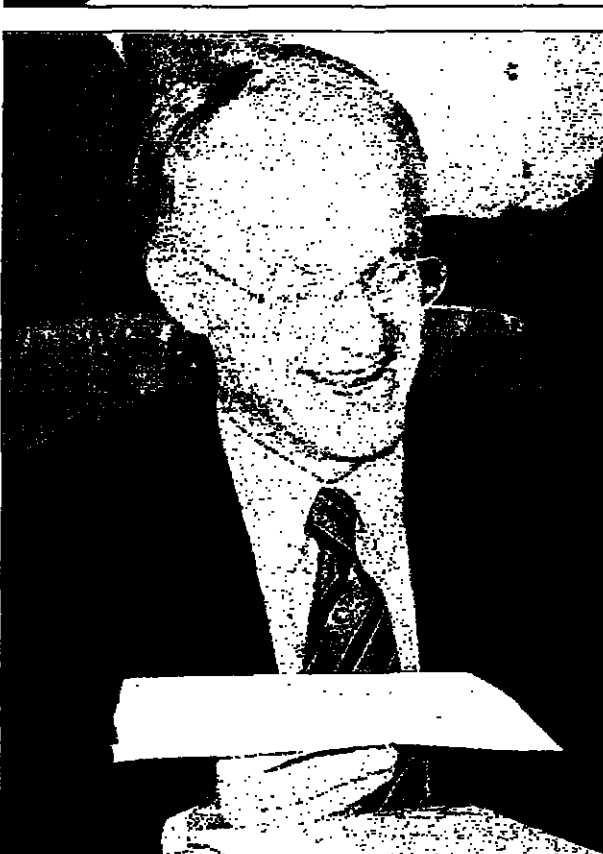
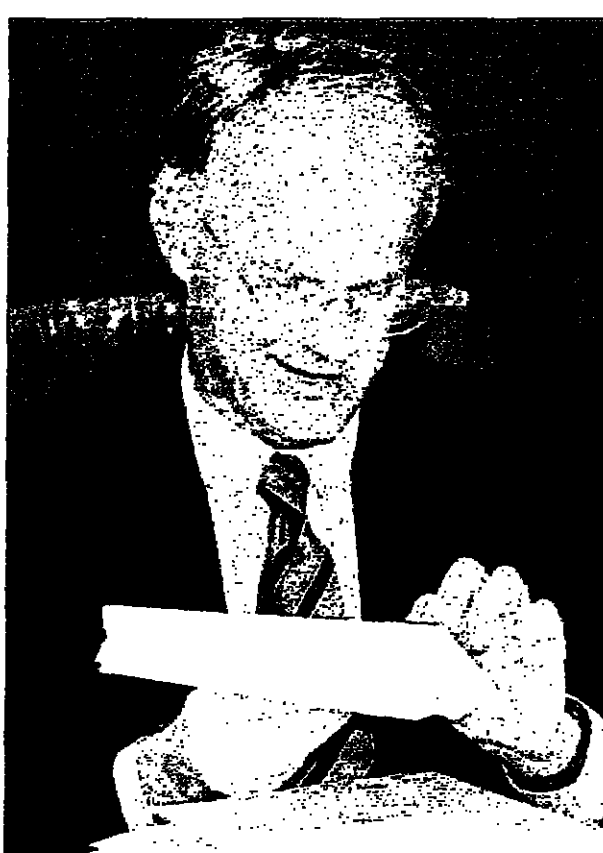
Despite the positive gloss by Brussels on the reform to the common agricultural policy (CAP), British farmers will inevitably have to learn to live with less as the EU proceeds with long overdue reforms to a system which devours half the annual budget of £65

billion. The main aim of the shake-up is to make a further leap away from the system of pouring money into supporting prices at levels far above world levels. A continuation of the last reform launched in 1992, the new approach aims to end beef mountains and wine lakes created by over-production and the buying in of crops by the EU to simply keep prices steady. But Brit-

ish consumer and environmental groups voiced disappointment, saying the reform could be more costly than the existing system and no less damaging to the countryside.

The National Consumer Council, which calculates that the CAP now costs the average family of four about £20 a week through a mixture of extra taxes and artificially high food prices, said the proposed reform was a "step in the right direction" but did not go nearly far enough.

The Council for Protection of Rural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said a great opportunity had been missed to attach environmental conditions to farm subsidies.



Jürgen Rüttgers, the German Science Minister, in holiday mood before the summer's last Cabinet meeting yesterday in Bonn, making a paper plane

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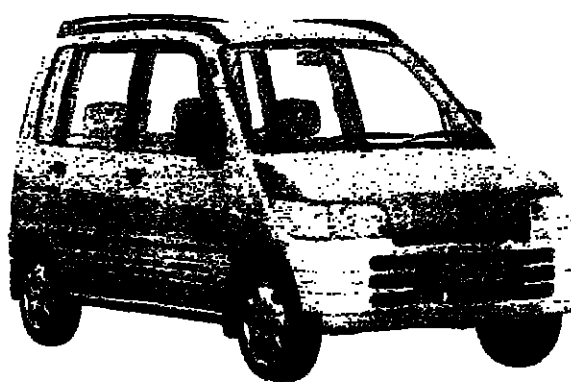
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# Stars take lesson in survival tactics

## Murder is boost for manual on how to keep stalkers at bay

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE MURDER of Gianni Versace has given an even bigger boost to a publishing phenomenon of the summer: a self-help manual on how stars — and ordinary people — can protect themselves from stalkers and assassins.

Gavin de Becker, "security consultant to the stars", who has worked for Elizabeth Taylor and the O.J. Simpson prosecution team, has topped the bestseller lists with the lecture Americans were waiting to hear: *The Gift of Fear: Survival signs that protect us from violence*.

Fear of murder needs no explanation in modern America. To that has increasingly been added the fear of unwanted, threatening attention: according to US government estimates, one woman in 20 will be stalked at some time in her life. Public anxiety has been stirred further by high-profile cases, such as John Hinckley Jr. who shot President Reagan in 1981 to demonstrate his obsession with film star Jodie Foster, or Mark Chapman, who shot John Lennon in 1980. But de Becker's message is that those who share the fatalism of President John Kennedy, who famously said that no assassin can be stopped because "all anyone has to do is be willing to trade his life for the President's", are wrong. "Assassination not only can be prevented, it is prevented far more often than it succeeds," he says. Violent crime is less random than people choose to think: they prefer to feel fatalistic rather than protect themselves — and there is a lot they can do.

His Los Angeles-based company, Gavin de Becker Inc, has advised on 20,000 cases; while he will not name his clients, his book credits Cher, Joan Rivers, Jeff Goldblum and Brooke Shields as "extraordinary friends whose lessons run throughout this book". He also advises the Government on threats to officials, judges, and abortion clinics, and helps companies with threats from angry employees.

Most danger comes from people you know, particularly spouses or lovers, he points out. But he argues that even serial killers, such as that played by Sir Anthony Hopkins in *The Silence of the Lambs*, are understandable and predictable. He quotes research by legendary FBI behavioural scientist Robert Ressler as suggesting that 100 per cent of serial killers "had been abused as children, either with violence, neglect or humiliation". De Becker's basic lesson is simple: pay attention to your intuition, that niggling sense that something is not quite right.

**People afraid to visit Egypt are in more danger at home**

He warns against chronic anxiety: "many Americans who wouldn't travel to see the Pyramids for fear of being killed in Egypt stay home, where danger is 20 times greater". But he argues that fear is a normally accurate warning of danger: victims of the Unabomber mused "do you think this is a bomb?" before opening the packages that killed them.

For ordinary life, he gives unremarkable but useful rules such as: "Don't get into a lift with a man who looks at you intently; don't accept help with groceries in an underground car park; don't jog with Walkman headphones on." But to people in public life, his message is blunter: they should all expect unwanted attention.

Given the near-certainty that a star will attract at least one disturbed fan, he argues that security arrangements are staggeringly lax. He directs particular passion against the security at the Citizen Cup in Hamburg for the "negligence" that led to the



Celebrity targets: John Lennon with Yoko, Jodie Foster, subject of a gunman's obsession, and below, Brooke Shields, advised by Gavin de Becker

stabbing of Yugoslav-born tennis star Monica Seles, at the height of the conflict in her former homeland in 1993, when security should have been tighter than ever.

But his greatest anger is directed at the Los Angeles police for failing to act on signs that Nicole Simpson-Brown was likely to be killed by her former husband O.J.

Among other sobering lessons, de Becker warns his star clients against putting complete faith in security guards, a profession which "gave us the Son of Sam killer, the assassin of John Lennon" as well as thousands of arsonists and rapists. Nor should they put much faith in court orders to restrain a violent partner: studies suggest in half of the cases, they may provoke more

violence. The core of his job is in deciding when the threats are becoming serious. He took it seriously when a man sent a client a dead coyote, killed "because it was beautiful like you".

As he reminds his clients, doing nothing is often the best option. "If you tell someone 10 times that you don't want to talk to him, you are talking to him — nine times more than you wanted to."

It may be impossible to follow all the de Becker lessons and still go out to a 24-hour store to buy your papers, as Versace did, let alone to become a figurehead and friend throughout Miami's gay milieu. But in the wake of his murder, the de Becker lessons are likely to get more disciples.



## Doubts on future of house that Gianni built

FROM JON PHILLIPS IN DME

AS ITALIANS mourned the shooting of Gianni Versace yesterday, commentators questioned whether his siblings, Donatella and Santo, will be able to maintain the empire's money-making capacity without his creativity.

Newspapers such as *La Repubblica* paid tribute to Versace for turning a small family firm — his native Calabria in the impoverished South — into an international group with an estimated turnover last year of £1.700 billion (£1 billion). "Gianni Versace Spa is a company typical of Italian family capitalism," the daily said. "Versace's development was dizzy, irreverent and even disorganised: the brand was used on perfumed furnishings, carpets and porcelain."

His family did not immediately disclose whether he had made a will. But the financial daily *Il Sole 24 Ore* quoted that, whatever the provisions, the firm would remain under family control. Gianni had a 45 per cent holding in the main company, his brother, Santo, had 3 per cent while his sister, Donatella, had 20 per cent.

However, financial experts said Versace's death might delay plans by Santo, the financial wizard of the trio, to float the company. He aimed to double the group consolidated turnover by the end of the millennium.

The group is the second largest Italian fashion exporter after Giorgio Armani, with 80 per cent of the turnover coming from overseas markets.

*Il Sole 24 Ore* said Donatella was the "natural heir" of Gianni, in that she is an established designer in her own right — through the Versace subsidiary company Versus — that markets her distinctive designs. Donatella "showed a good dose of talent", said the Milan business daily, adding she had overseen designing the company when Gianni was incapacitated by a mysterious illness: variously reported to be a tumour or AIDS.

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# Gigolo serial killer's descent into darkness

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

STUNNED by the killing of Gianni Versace, America is asking itself one question: how could Andrew Phillip Cunanan, the well-bred son of a wealthy stockbroker and a Roman Catholic mother, have grown into a serial murderer now on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list?

As a boy, Cunanan wanted for nothing. He lived in a loving, supportive home, went to the best school in town, and was given a sports car on his sixteenth birthday.

Yet the 28-year-old Cunanan, who went on to become a homosexual gigolo, is now accused of four murders beside Versace's, all between April 29 and May 9.

The first was of Jeffrey Trail, 28, a former lieutenant in the US Navy. He was found murdered in a Minneapolis townhouse, his bloody body wrapped tightly in a rug. His head had been bashed in with a claw-hammer. Trail is thought to have been one of Cunanan's many lovers, as was the man in whose house the body was found.

He was an architect named David Madison, 33. Five days after Trail's murder, Madison's body was found in a derelict farmhouse, his body riddled with bullets. In the days before the murder, friends report that Cunanan gave Madison a gold Cartier watch. This gesture, they say, was typical of the suspected killer.

Cunanan next stole Madison's Jeep and drove to Chicago. There, on May 4, he is believed to have claimed his next victim, a 72-year-old property tycoon named Lee Miglin. He was found in his own garage, his throat cut with a saw, his chest punctured with pruning shears and his head bound tightly



The four other men believed to have been killed this year by Andrew Cunanan, clockwise from top left, Jeffrey Trail, David Madison, William Reese and Lee Miglin

in masking tape. In what was becoming a pattern of ghoulish car swaps, the Jeep was abandoned and exchanged for Miglin's expensive Lexus car. Cunanan drove several hundred miles east, to New Jersey. There, at the Flyn's Point National Cemetery in Salem County, he is believed to have picked his next victim at random.

William Reese, 45, the cemetery's unremarkable — and hetero-

sexual — caretaker, was found shot in the head. His body had been tossed into a shallow grave. Cunanan abandoned the Lexus here and took Reese's red pickup. This is the vehicle police that was found near the scene of Versace's murder.

Cunanan's descent into darkness is both remarkable and disturbing. He was born into an affluent home in San Diego,

California: his Eurasian father was a former naval officer who turned to stockbroking. His mother was deeply religious and took young Cunanan to Mass.

At school he flaunted his homosexuality, often boasting to his classmates that he was being "kept" by a number of wealthy "sugar daddies". He was popular, and in his graduation year was voted the boy "least likely to be forgotten".

Chillingly, the caption Cunanan chose for his school yearbook picture was *après moi, le déluge* — after me, disaster.

Disaster struck Cunanan in 1988, when his father fled to the Philippines with every last cent in the family's bank account. This was the turning point in his life. The sudden impoverishment of his lifestyle led him, still only 19, to seek work as a male prostitute.

He was very successful. He made an attractive companion for older Californian homosexuals. An acquaintance has described him as clever, quick-witted and polyglot, "not your average buffed male bimbo on the make".

Unsurprisingly, he appears to have earned the disapproval of his religious mother, who left California shortly afterwards to eke out a modest existence in Illinois. She has not seen her son for years.

FBI investigators believe that he might have contracted Aids and that a combination of panic, anger and resentment may have driven him to "avenge himself" on other gay men. Days before Trail's murder in April, he told friends he was going to Minneapolis to "settle some business". He invited a select few to a last, lavish supper — for which he paid — and left the same night on a flight out of Los Angeles.



Andrew Phillip Cunanan, suspected of a cross-country killing spree culminating in the Versace murder

## Fear strikes gay bars after 'Renaissance prince of South Beach' is slain

FROM TOM RHODES IN SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI

THE fear was tangible in the gay bars of South Beach. Bodybuilders at doors, muted music and anxious faces provided the most telling signs of how the murder of Gianni Versace has already affected the American Riviera he helped to inspire.

At Twist, a gay nightclub frequented by the Italian fashion designer, there was a sense of gloom and concern that Andrew

Cunanan, the alleged killer, could strike again. FBI photographs of the serial murderer were passed silently around the bar as its patrons analysed them in disbelief. "He looks very attractive. It's very frightening for us," said Scott Wilson, 36, a former model. "The gay party scene down here is very drug orientated. People out in clubs or getting high are apt to do things they would never consider if they were sober. We are an easy target for this guy."

Versace's murder on the steps of

his Italianate palazzo the previous day has cast the deepest shadow over this community, a gay enclave in the United States rivalled only by the Castro district of San Francisco. His high fashion, glamour and exuberant taste had inspired hordes of young men to leave the dull plains of the Midwest and the metropolitan districts of the East Coast for the new bohemia of southern Florida.

He had been one of the pioneers, who helped to create an international hotspot from the once dilapidated Deco District. "He was like our President, almost a god," said Mark Bryce, 31. "The man held the Beach together."

At The Casa Casuarina, the mansion in front of which Versace was shot dead, he would host cosy dinners for the celebrity elite, from Madonna to Sylvester Stallone. Visiting kings and queens of fashion and Hollywood would never escape his attention or that of Antonio D'Amico, his long-time companion and personal trainer.

Versace had turned the whitewashed citadel into a memorial to Miami's elegance in the Thirties. Employing an architect from Washington and designers from Italy, he bought and renovated the building in 1992. He spent \$3.7 million (£2.2 million) alone razing a neighbouring hotel to make way for the Italian garden and frescoed swimming pool. For his fidelity to the Italian Gothic and Classical Renaissance, Versace had won a preservation award from the board of the Florida Trust. It was, he once said, the only place he

could relax and feel safe, an irony not lost on the hundreds who held vigil outside the property yesterday. Flowers, candles and simple messages of love had been delivered throughout the night. Beautiful bronzed women held hands with gay men in tearful tribute to a man they regarded as the Renaissance prince of South Beach. He would regularly walk alone down Ocean Drive, stopping at the News Café to buy newspapers and magazines and perhaps an orange

juice. On the day he died, Versace had taken his regular stroll and, stopping at the café, had spent \$15 on a typically wide selection of magazines, ranging from *Vogue* and *People* to *The New Yorker* and *Business Week*. He used to say he enjoyed reading Proust and Dostoevsky, the author of the favourite Versace epithet: "Beauty will save the world."

Ron McLean, the café's manager, said Versace "epitomised everything that people love about the Beach".

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# Koreans exchange border fire

## Troops cross truce line as North reaches flashpoint

BY TIM HAMES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN the worst incident of its kind in many years, North Korean troops yesterday penetrated the military demarcation line with South Korea that has marked the border since the end of the Korean War 44 years ago.

North Koreans also fired artillery shells at a Southern guard post.

The two Koreas accused each other of provocation on the heavily fortified border, the world's last Cold War flashpoint. Pyongyang said several North Korean soldiers were wounded. About 37,000 American troops are stationed in the South but no US forces were involved.

Pyongyang said North Korean soldiers were carrying out normal reconnaissance when South Korean troops opened fire. "From this attack, several soldiers were injured and several guard posts were destroyed," it added.

Western analysts would like to hope that this was an isolated incident. However, there is a significant chance that optimism will prove misplaced. North Korea is in a state of terminal decline. Any assessment of the world's most secretive society must be tentative, but the signs are that it will prove impossible to maintain the status quo.

Seoul accused the North of heightening border tensions with serious provocations. "We strongly warn that we will never tolerate any provocation," Lieutenant-General Joungh Young Moo said.

General Joungh said the incident began when seven Northern soldiers crossed the military demarcation line that runs through the middle of the

2½-mile-wide demilitarised zone. Southern troops fired shots in the air after broadcasting warning messages by loudspeaker. North Korean forces responded with about 80 rounds of rifle fire at two guard posts, which returned a similar burst of fire.

Yeo Sook Dong, chief spokesman for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that North Korean forces then fired ten artillery rounds that landed near a Southern guard post.

South Korean troops responded with one round from a recoilless rifle.

Two years of floods have destroyed a North Korean agricultural sector that was already extremely weak. Signs of advanced malnutrition have been witnessed and official rations have fallen to 100 grams (less than four ounces) of food per day.

Conditions are thought to be worse in the mountainous northern provinces. Grass and bark have become part of the national diet. Starvation



Kim Il Sung: struggle for succession goes on

on a vast scale is possible this summer.

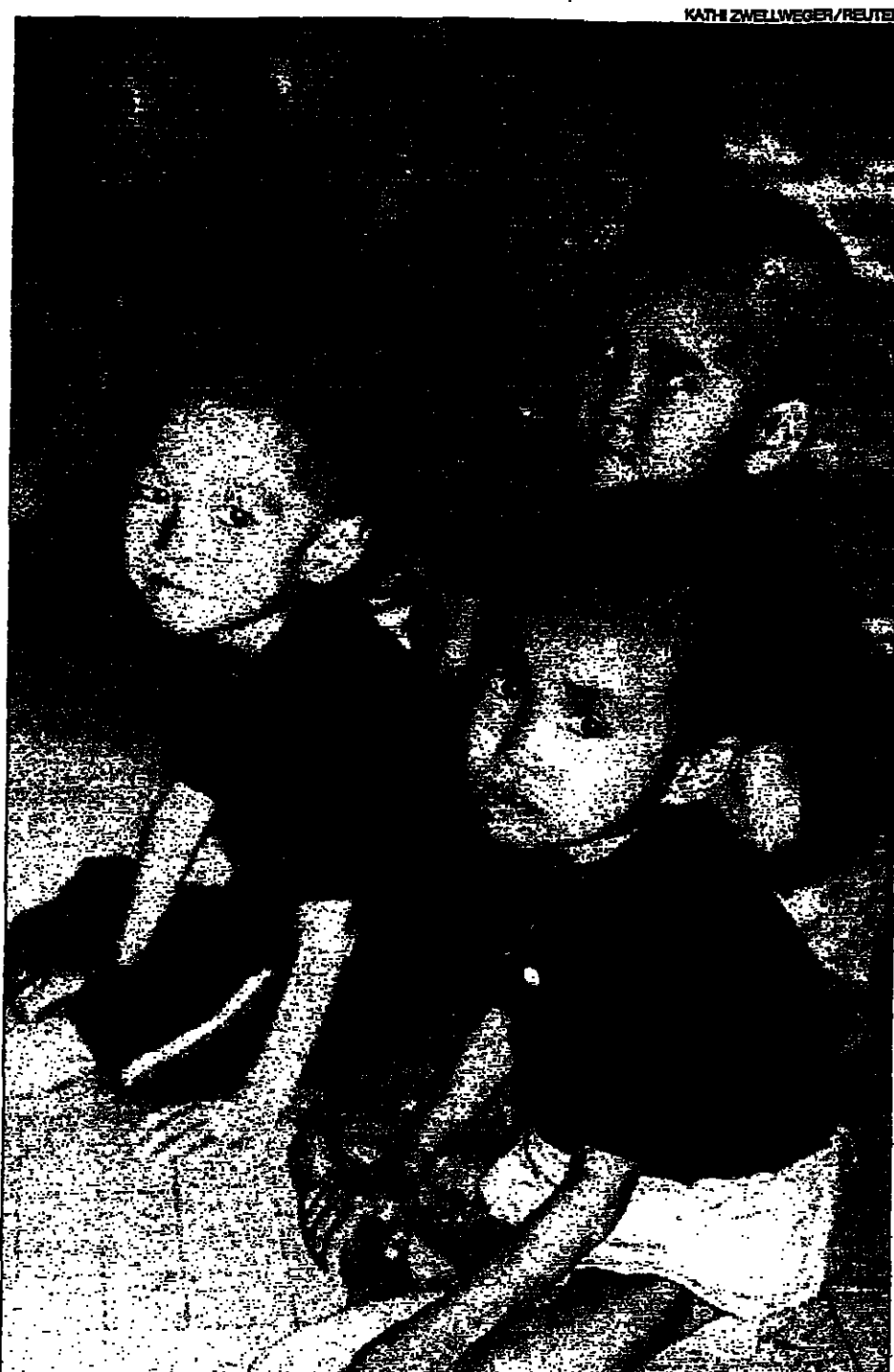
The industrial sector is in a similarly disastrous state. Starved of resources by the late dictator, Kim Il Sung, who diverted all available funds to his pursuit of nuclear weapons, the factories that remain are thought to be operating at barely a quarter of capacity.

Political uncertainty compounds the present crisis. Last week saw the third anniversary of Kim Il Sung's death. It had been thought that the end of this official mourning period would see his son, Kim Jong Il, formally elevated to the posts of head of state and General Secretary of the Korean Workers' Party. The silence from Pyongyang suggests a protracted power struggle.

The country would appear to face three unattractive choices: War with South Korea and by extension the United States; a negotiated peace that would require the retraction of five decades of party propaganda; or complete economic and political collapse with South Korea absorbing what remained.

Few believe that the North could hope to win any serious military encounter although sheer force of numbers might allow it an initial advantage.

Collapse would appear the most likely scenario. North Korea's leadership has probably made the same calculation. Its best chance lies in postponing that moment. A programme of escalating belligerence, stopping just short of war, might seem the best means of extracting concessions — food and aid — from the outside world.



North Korean children suffering from malnutrition at a nursery in the town of Huichon. Of the 80 children aged between one and five, 20 are orphans

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kazakh crew flew 'too low'

Delhi: An investigation into the world's worst mid-air disaster, in which 349 people were killed, has blamed the crew of a Kazakh airliner for the collision. The Press Trust of India, quoting official sources, said the inquiry led by a senior judge concluded that the Kazakh Ilushin 6 "was not at its assigned level of 15,000ft and came down to the flight level of 14,000ft" resulting in the crash with a Saudi Boeing 747 on November 12 near Delhi. (AFP)

### Hun Sen's man

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, Cambodian Second Prime Minister, tried to legitimise his ousting of Prince Ranariddh, First Prime Minister, by putting Ung Huot, Foreign Minister, in his post. (AP)

### Lethal injection

Shanghai: Two Chinese criminals have been executed by lethal injection, the first time China has used the method as an alternative to the firing squad, the Xinhua Evening News reported. (Reuters)

### Moi for talks

Nairobi: President Moi of Kenya will meet opposition leaders seeking reforms next week. Campaigners said the talks were not enough to abandon plans to put pressure on the President. (Reuters)

### Turtle dilemma

Munich: Bavaria is looking for homes for 1,300 eight-inch American turtles seized from traffickers. They cannot be released as Europe is not their natural habitat. The US has refused to take them. (AFP)

## Novelist attacks toleration of racism

FROM DEBORAH COLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

GÜNTHER GRASS, the German author, has accused police and prosecutors in the northern town of Lübeck of failing in their duty to find the perpetrators behind a series of neo-Nazi attacks on churches in the area.

In an interview in today's *Die Woche* newspaper, he accuses Manfred Kanther, the Interior Minister, of encouraging racism by refusing to reform either the asylum laws or ancient citizenship rules for children born to foreigners.

Herr Grass, who lives in Lübeck, said by continually introducing new conditions for deporting asylum seekers, Herr Kanther had "set the guideline for what had happened in towns like Lübeck", where over the past month churches and rectories have been attacked.

Investigators conclude that they were all racially motivated. Herr Grass, 70, whose office was recently defaced with swastikas, described police attempts to track down those behind the xenophobic attacks as "disgraceful".



Grass's office has been defaced by swastikas

## Rameses the Great finds refuge from dirty Cairo

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

PHARAOH Rameses II is going home. After years of being battered by the fumes of Cairo, the landmark 60-tonne rose granite statue of the great warrior-king is to be returned to its original base in the tranquil village of Mit Rahina, site of the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis.

The decision was announced by Farouk Hosni, the Culture Minister, after years of heated debate about where the 30ft colossus should be transported to escape the damaging surroundings outside Cairo's central railway station, where it was transported in 1954 on the orders of

President Nasser. The imposing statue had stood in front of a temple for more than 3,000 years before Nasser, who had overthrown the monarchy, ordered its relocation as a symbol of ancient Egyptian power.

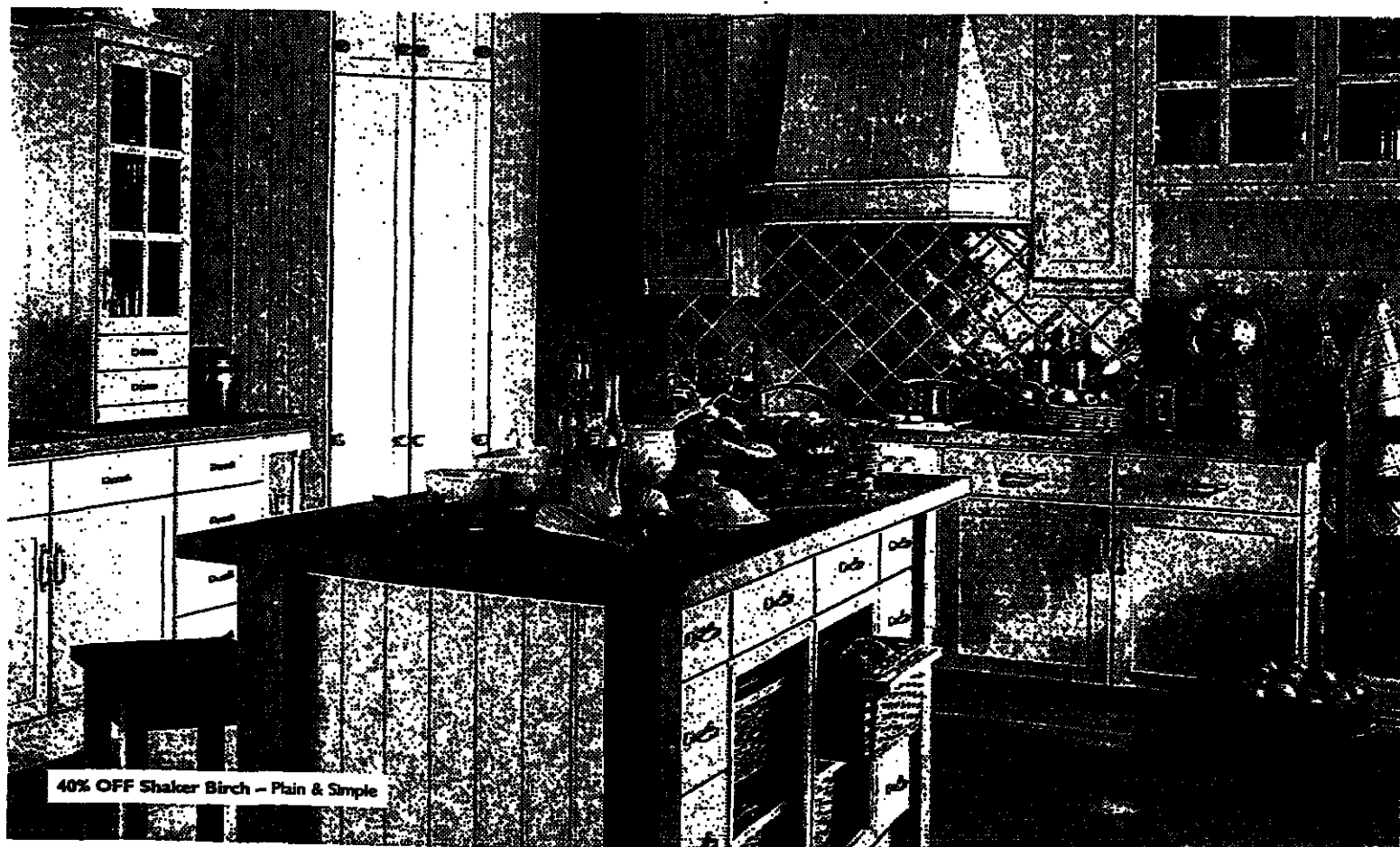
Mr Hosni announced yesterday that within three months, the torso — already cracked from pollution and humidity — will be returned, encased in a metal frame to avoid damage during transport. For years the Government has dithered about choosing a new site, with officials joking that suggestions about a location were as

numerous as the Pharaoh's wives, said to have totalled 66. One Egyptologist proposed putting the statue on an island in the Nile, and a journalist wanted to put it by the Giza pyramids.

Rameses II, also known as Rameses the Great, ruled Egypt for 66 years, ending in 1224 BC and brought the country great power and wealth. He erected more buildings and colossal statues than any other Pharaoh.

At Mit Rahina, Rameses will find a quiet village at the edge of the desert rimmed with date palms and swaying grass.

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مكتبة الأصل



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## Jospin retaliates for Bastille Day attack by Chirac

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A BARELY civil war of words broke out yesterday between the two most powerful men in France, when Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, sternly reminded President Chirac to stick to his constitutional role and the head of state, equally sharply, told M. Jospin that he would continue to express his views at will.

M. Jospin's veiled warning came after strong criticisms of the Socialist Government's policies made by the President in his Bastille Day television interview this week.

"Following the statements of the President on July 14, the Prime Minister recalled in Cabinet the prerogatives which constitutionally are those of the President and Prime Minister," M. Jospin's spokesman said, in reaction to M. Chirac's statement that he had "a pre-eminent role, the last word" in politics.

The Elysée Palace promptly shot back, stating that "the President of the Republic will continue to tell the French people when he judges it necessary, what he thinks about the important issues for the future of France."

The conservative President and left-wing Prime Minister have been locked into a difficult and ill-defined "cohabitation" since the centre-right Government was ousted in parliamentary elections six weeks ago, but the relationship has soured even more rapidly than expected.

While both President and Prime Minister invoke the French constitution, and M. Chirac repeatedly insists he wants a "constructive cohabitation", the constitution is vague on precisely where the power of one leader ends and the other begins.

In his Bastille Day address,

described as "an ambush", a "demolition job" and "a bomb" by the press, M. Chirac attacked a range of Socialist policies on issues ranging from privatisation to immigration to taxes. His remarks evoked glee among the Centre-Right and fury on the Left, with charges that the President was acting as a "de facto" leader of the Opposition.

Nicolas Sarkozy, spokesman for the Gaullist RPR party, replied yesterday that, if the President was showing his true political colours, he was only acting in the tradition of the late President Mitterrand during two earlier periods of power-sharing.

The new Prime Minister "would do well to remember the behaviour on a good many occasions of François Mitterrand, who never hesitated to show that a Socialist he was, and a Socialist he remained."



The bus lies on its side after the crash on a hillside near Barcelona. Two tourists and the driver were badly hurt

## Britons injured in Spanish bus crash

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

TWENTY-SIX British tourists were injured yesterday when their bus overturned on a tight bend on mountains above Barcelona.

Police said that two of the Britons were seriously hurt — one suffered head wounds, the other a broken collar bone. The driver was also badly hurt.

Several children and elderly people were among those injured. The tour group was on its way to see a castle and the stadium where the 1992 Olympics were held.

The remaining 20 passengers were taken back to the cruise liner *Suphrie* in which they had travelled to Barcelona.

Eta crackdown: Supporters of the Basque separatist group Eta will be forbidden from shouting "Viva Eta" and painting slogans under proposed laws to penalise those who defend terrorism or take part in violent protests. The move follows the murder of Miguel Angel Blanco.

## French deny rift with US over more Serb raids

FROM IAN BRIDIE IN WASHINGTON

A TRANSATLANTIC squabble blew up yesterday over a report that France had objected to Nato plans for a second raid to round up accused war criminals in Bosnia as too risky.

The French Government insisted there was no basis for the report on the front page of *The New York Times* that France had declined to take part in the proposed operation.

In Washington, Clinton Administration officials did not directly rebut the report, saying they could not comment on possible future operations. They did say there was no rift with the French.

According to the report, America has been pressing Nato allies to arrest prominent Bosnian Serbs charged with war crimes, many of whom live near Pale, the Bosnian Serb capital, an area patrolled by an international force under the command of French officers.

The newspaper quoted senior American officials as saying the continued freedom of Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb President, and Ratko Mladic, former military commander, under-

mined efforts to build a durable peace. The sources declined to say if the pair were targets of the proposed operation.

According to American and French officials, Paris was not opposed to the arrest of prominent Bosnian Serbs wanted for war crimes, but felt the plan was too risky. American officials believed the French decision might not be final, as they have "gone back and forth" about future operations in their sector, the newspaper said.

There is validity to the argument that a follow-up raid would be hazardous, given that the capture of one accused war criminal by British troops and the killing of another had tipped Nato's hand, presumably prompting Bosnian Serbs to reinforce security.

Yesterday's rift, caused by American officials apparently portraying the French as balking at another raid, comes when Franco-American relations are already rather strained. Disagreements surfaced at the Denver summit and in Madrid where France wanted Romania admitted to Nato but Mr Clinton refused.

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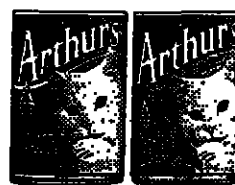


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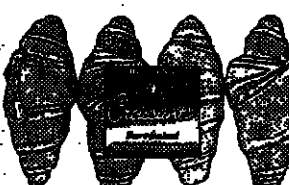
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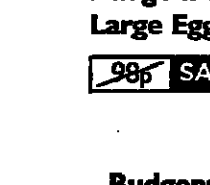
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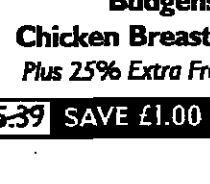
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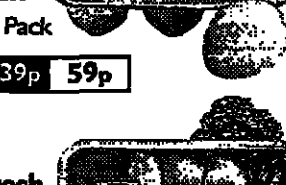
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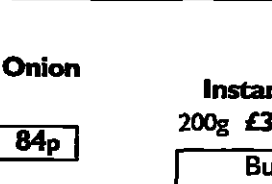
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**Dr Thomas Stuttford on research into a skin disease; a heart warning; creaky knees; a baby bonus; and an old remedy**

## The pain and shame of psoriasis

**P**soriasis, the skin disease in which new skin is created ten times faster in some areas of the body than is usual, results in raised, dry, red and scaly patches.

It affects 2 per cent of the population and has a tendency to form at points where there is constant friction or minor trauma, such as on the elbows, knees, the front of the legs and on the scalp. Psoriasis is also a nuisance where clothing is tight and the skin is tender, such as beneath the belt around the navel and in the genital and peri-anal area.

When psoriasis attacks the fingertips, the condition is all too obvious as the nails become thickened, pitted and raised from their beds. One in ten patients with the disease develops a form of arthritis similar to rheumatoid arthritis, and for these people psoriasis is not only a cosmetic problem, but one that causes pain and disability.

From biblical times until after the late Middle Ages, doctors did not distinguish between psoriasis and the skin manifestations of leprosy. Sufferers were then treated like lepers, the public was warned of their impending presence, and they had to take Communion separately, discreetly hidden away at the side of the chancel so that their blotchy, scaly faces and hands could be kept out of sight of the healthy congregation.

When the disease became too widespread, patients with psoriasis were incarcerated in hospitals for lepers.

However enlightened most people are nowadays about disfigurement, a minority is still repelled by any skin disease, particularly if it affects the face, and patients with psoriasis

become acutely conscious of their appearance. Not surprisingly, this self-consciousness affects their sex lives. Research from the University of Western Ontario, recently published in the *International Journal of Dermatology*, found that more than 40 per cent of patients with psoriasis said that it affected their libido, particularly those whose patches were widespread, affected the groin, or where the disease was complicated by arthritis.

Only one in four of the patients whose sex life was blighted said that this was the result of their partner's reaction to the disease.

Patients whose love life had suffered because of psoriasis were those who were also more likely to be depressed and to drink heavily. In these cases it was difficult to know whether the loss of libido was the result of the skin disease or whether it was a manifestation of the heavier drinking and change in mood.

Although the cause of psoriasis is unknown, other than that the disease is in part familial, it has been shown that it is worse if the patient drinks too much alcohol, is anxious or depressed. It is also worse in patients who take beta-blockers to treat their high blood pressure. All these factors may not have been taken fully into account in the survey.

Psoriasis is improved by exposure to sunlight or by a change of mood. The effect of both of these factors provides a possible, logical explanation for some of the miraculous cures of leprosy which have followed a pilgrimage. The combination of exposure to sun while walking to a shrine, coupled with the sense of relief derived from worshipping, whether at Walsingham or Lourdes, in those



The late playwright Dennis Potter, pictured with actress Gina Bellman, suffered from psoriasis

who have previously been tormented by their anxieties could well have accounted for the occasional miracle cure.

Psoriasis may not be curable by traditional means but it can be treated, and this treatment is constantly improving.

Newer preparations such as Dovonex, Calcipotriol and Curatoderm taccitol are less staining than coal tar products or

Dithranol in Lassar's paste. Micanol, which should be applied only to tough skin, is less messy than Dithranol. Light treatment with narrow band UVB is a simpler procedure than the old-style PUVA regime.

Topical steroids may be needed in some cases, but the skin is likely to become resistant to them.

Dr Malcolm Rustin, a consultant dermatologist at the Royal Free

Hospital in London, which continues an active research programme into psoriasis, says: "The outlook for patients is constantly improving. New products are being developed which are not only more effective but more pleasant to use. Even so, we don't neglect old remedies and are just starting a clinical trial to determine the value of extracts of native British herbs in the treatment of psoriasis."

## Why folic acid is good for the heart

**D**inner party guests hoping to stave off their inevitable appointment with the grim reaper should not only beware of butter and rich sauces, but should also be eating their asparagus, broccoli and lentils; choosing liver rather than hamburgers and, so long as they are dining later in the day, drinking large quantities of orange or other fruit juice.

A preoccupation with the level of cholesterol is no longer enough, for homocysteine is every bit as important a factor in the battle to defeat heart attacks and other cardio-vascular diseases. It has taken 20 years for doctors, and the

such as those leading to the legs or feet."

High levels of homocysteine may be the result of a hereditary deficiency in the enzymes involved in its metabolism, kidney disease, or a lack in the diet of folic acid, vitamin B12 or vitamin B6. Folic acid is found in nature in fresh fruit, vegetables and liver or these sources can be supplemented by folic acid tablets found at any chemist. Except in absurd overdosage it has no side effects.

Folic acid deficiency is a very important cause of raised homocysteine and the differences in the amount of folic acid in the diet may account for the

**The higher the level, the greater the chance of disaster**

wide disparity in the incidence of heart disease found in different socio-economic groups. A rich man's diet, despite sauces and the butter, may cause less heart disease than would be expected because it is also rich in folic acid and the affluence will therefore have

lower levels of homocysteine than the poor. Dr Schorah's research has shown that folic acid blood levels in the better off may be 40 per cent higher than in the less affluent.

As increased folic acid levels reduce homocysteine an obvious answer would seem to fortify common foods with folic acid. Already many breakfast cereals are enriched with the vitamin, and market research has shown that these are bought by more than 70 per cent of house-

holds. The next step, which has been firmly advocated in a leader in the *British Medical Journal*, written by Professor Nicholas Wald of St Bartholomew's Hospital and the Royal London Hospital, is for flour also to be supplemented with folic acid. Government approval for this is awaited.

Dr Christopher Schorah, senior lecturer in chemical pathology at Leeds University, who has spent many years investigating homocysteine and the role of folic acid in cardio-vascular disease, says: "It has been found that homocysteine is an even more important risk factor in cardio-vascular disease than is raised cholesterol, and it is an independent factor in the determination of the likelihood of someone having a heart attack, a stroke, or suffering obstruction of a peripheral artery

## A habit that was painful

**SCIENTISTS** have been studying the skeletons of monks that have lain beneath the crypt of St Stephen's monastery in Jerusalem for the past 1,500 years. The *British Medical Journal* reports that the skeletons showed that most of the monks had suffered from osteoarthritis of the knees during their lives.

The *BMJ* suggests that this osteoarthritis was probably the result of constant kneeling at prayers; presumably a condition akin to the arthritis suffered by modern electricians who develop it when they are working in cramped conditions while installing wiring.

Other possibilities would be that the hard work in the fields and monastery gardens was too much for the monks' knees. A less charitable thought is that

they might have been overfed in the refectory. Knees are seven times more likely than hips to be affected by obesity.

Whatever the cause, the monks had to suffer the pain without any efficient anti-inflammatory drugs. This pain may have made them miserable, but the absence of the drugs meant that they were spared the hazard of peptic ulceration or haemorrhage.

Both conditions, the most worrying of the side-effects of this invaluable group of drugs, are less likely if either Arthrotec, which contains the gastro-intestinal protective Misoprostol, or Mobic, which works in a slightly different way, are prescribed. Though more expensive, the difference in safety is striking and makes the cost worthwhile.



Constant kneeling can lead to osteoarthritis

## Twins can provide cancer protection

**Twins.** A new sac had to be fashioned for one of the babies.

The mother now has two consolations. She has the pleasure of the company of a pair of healthy babies, as well as the reassurance that having twins means that she is one-third less likely to develop

cancer of the breast than other mothers.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund recently reported in the *British Journal of Cancer* that a study of 4,800 Swedish women showed that mothers of twins had an increased resistance to this tumour.

Researchers from the Fund are now trying to isolate the factors involved in twin births which provide this protection, and also to find out whether the immunity is present equally in fraternal or identical births.

## A foul-tasting memory

**A DISTINGUISHED** doctor who is now recovering from prostate surgery was amazed when the nursing staff not only lacked a mixture of potassium citrate in the ward cupboard to alleviate his pain on urinating, but had never heard of it. Thirty years ago, the standard treatment of mild cystitis was to render the urine alkaline with regular doses of this foul-tasting mixture, which could just about be tolerated if it was combined with concentrated orange juice. In those days, ready-prepared Mist Pot Cit was held in every ward in huge bottles ready for dispensing by the nursing staff. Now a course of antibiotics is prescribed.

The most recent antibiotic regime to be introduced for the treatment of simple cystitis is Ciproxin, a small 100mg tablet taken twice a day for three days. This dose is usual-

ly enough to treat simple cystitis, commonly the result of infection with *E-coli*, so that the patient's comfort is restored, and the invading bacteria eliminated.

It is essential that a specimen of urine is sent for culture in the laboratory at the start of treatment so that if the infection does not clear, the sensitivity of any organism is known, and other tests to exclude a chlamydial or gonococcal urethritis, sexually transmitted diseases, may be undertaken.

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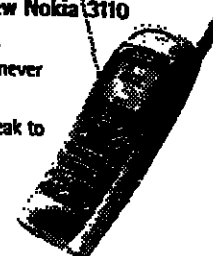


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THE SUNDAY TIMES

**IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT**

Why Mr Kakimoto went 24 hours without sleep, spent \$37m, and still wept with joy. In the Magazine this weekend

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

FEATURES 17

There are rules to decoration and they do not include Christmas trees or coloured candles. But if you live in the suburbs, flying ducks are fine, says the designer David Hicks

**T**aboos haven't changed. Nancy Mitford in her essay written 40 years ago on 'U and Non-U' was simply bringing back 18th-century ideas of behaviour, banishing Victorian affectation. The same rules apply in decoration.

People might accuse me of breaking colour codes, but I have only been looking at the most traditional uses of colour. I found shocking pink, purple and scarlet in the robes of the Roman Catholic Church. Violet seats and scarlet walls were the result of seeing scarlet lipstick worn with a violet silk dress. It may appear modern, but it is reimposing an older order.

Also, now that we mix old and new, the dictates of the time don't necessarily apply. My Louis XVI chairs are not covered in dainty woven silk but tweed. Obviously, Directoire chairs would not originally have had that silk on them, but does that matter? I have also started using violet leather on chairs instead of damask.

Indecision is at the root of most bad rooms. Rugs laid on carpet are irritating (they lack style) and they creep. Half-tiled rooms are a sign of weakness, as are variegated plants or two-tone cars. My job is to help people who can't decide.

Three ducks flying above the mantelpiece is fine, as are cocktail cabinets, if you live in suburbia. Drinks should always be on a marble or stone-topped table. Cocktails, like so many other things, are a dreadful import from America. My father, born in 1863, never would have contemplated gin.

Framed reproductions of paintings are definitely taboo. One might just about get away with an Old Master drawing from a Christie's catalogue, properly line-mounted and framed.

Silver-framed photographs, even of the Royal Family, are taboo in a drawing-room but gilded silver is OK. Gilt is all right for *objets de vertu*, but they must be small. Silver is for the dining room and nowhere else.

I can't bear polished mahogany dining tables. They must be covered. I like small patterns or white damask table cloths. Bare tables came in in the 1920s — and for me are quite out.

Candles, whether real or electric, should be long. One would only see short candles towards the end of the evening. One should never see the source of light; candles should always be shaded, and never any colour but white.

**Candles should be long and never any colour but white**

I hate cyclamen in pots and Christmas trees are beyond the pale. If you have to have something, bring in a wonderful branch. Paint it and put lights on it, but never allow one of those awful needle-dropping trees in the house.

Bright blue swimming-pools are vulgar. I have a black one as it looks most natural. At night, when lit, it appears like a black opal. Don't have too much mown grass.

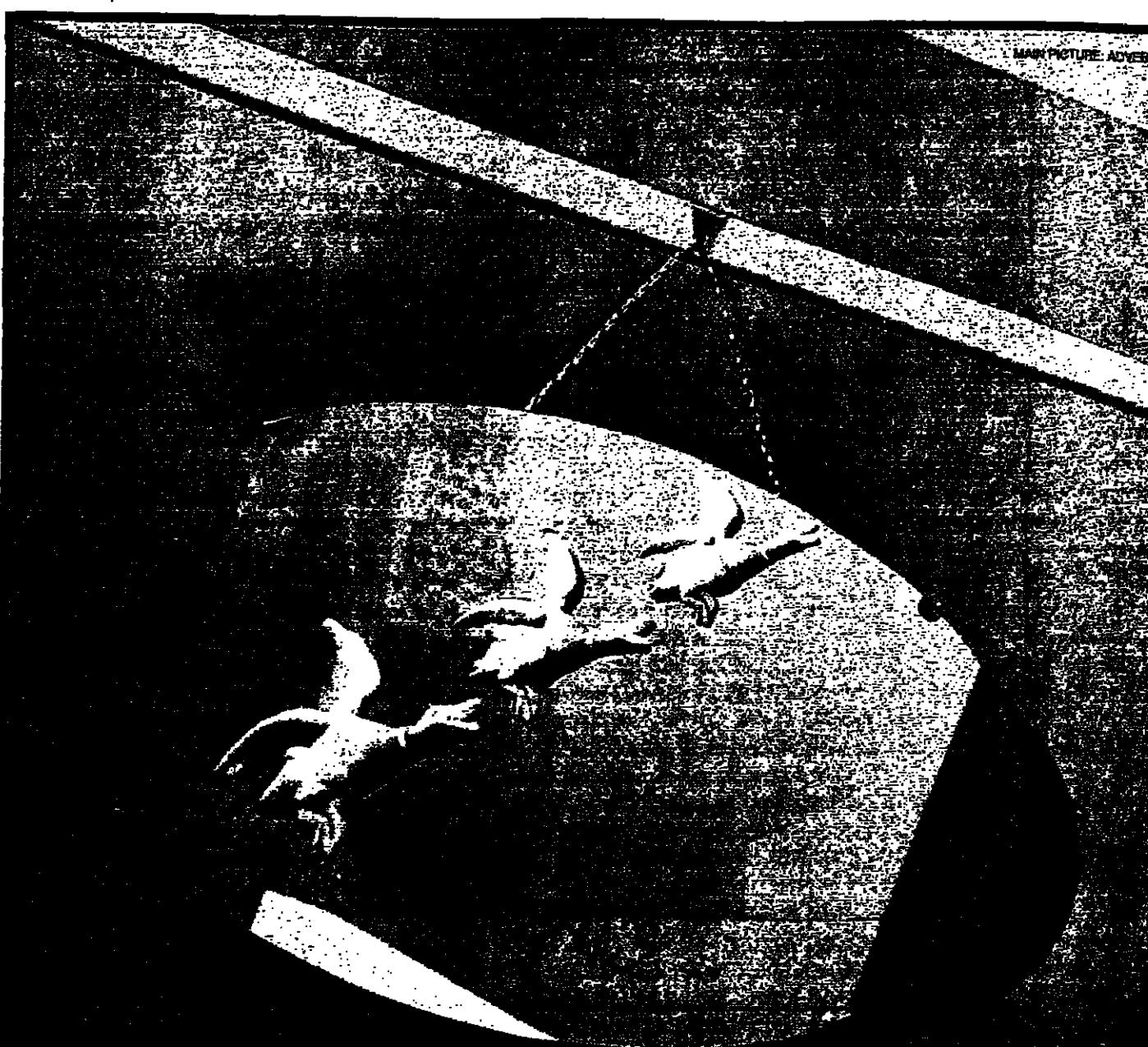
The nouveau riche love wrought iron. I hate it except all that Tijuana metalwork at Hampton Court and Chatsworth. Picture rails are totally taboo.

Men in the suburbs of remote places like Maastricht seem to have caught the habit of carrying handbags. I suppose it must seem terribly exciting to them.

Cars should be black, white or grey, or possibly very dark green. Cars ruin everything — architecture and country. The Duke of Wellington's resistance to trains looks very wise in retrospect.

Goodbye! Englishmen don't shake hands.

● This article first appeared in *Antique Interiors International*



# Decoration taboos

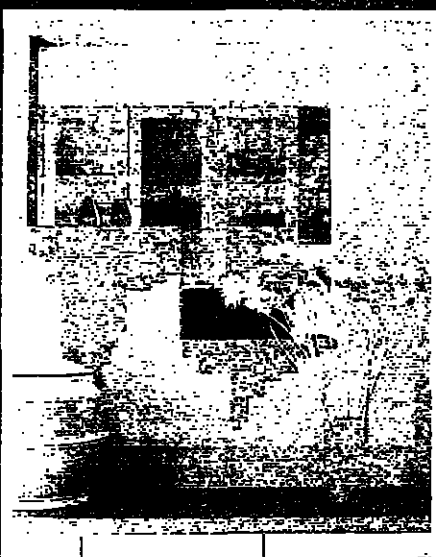
Three ducks flying above the mantelpiece is fine — if you live in suburbia



Silver-framed photographs are taboo



Dining tables must be covered



Half-tiled rooms are a sign of weakness

## BREAKING THE RULES

should be covered with a table cloth. Oh dear, mine is uncovered and what is more, I spend an inordinate amount of time polishing it to make it even more lustrous. Candles should always be long and shaded. Mine surely cannot be long enough at six inches. But my worst fault must be that I love Christmas trees. They are, according to Mr

Hicks, "beyond the pale". Mr Hicks would hate my flat, especially at Christmas when it smells sweetly of pine and the silver photograph frames glow in the guttering candle-light of your stunted candles. The colour of your car can let you down, too. Black, white, grey or very dark green at a pinch. Mr Hicks has a determined view on the col-

our but not about the make. The owner of a British racing green Ford Capri presumably would be welcome to park outside the Hicks pile. I expect he would find much to complain about in the houses I have visited for this newspaper's property pages. He abhors the bright blue swimming-pool. One house not only had a pool of

the bright blue variety, it also had an image of a shark picked out in mosaic. A loft apartment broke the rule on no framed reproductions several times over. In an effort to fill the vast amount of wall space, the owners had covered one wall with a patchwork quilt effect of these prints. Another house that would have had him spluttering is the Duchess of York's former home. It had the lot; the blue pool, the polished table, the silver photograph frames in the sitting room. Mr Hicks states that even photographs of the Royal Family are banned in this respect.

I WONDER what he would have to say about the silver-framed photographs that Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has strewn about her drawing room in Clarence House. I am pleased to report, however, that she has not sinned on the framed reproduction front. If I were to have imposed Mr Hicks's code on every house I have entered, they would nearly all have failed, like me. Also, like me, most owners probably don't much care about the rules and will continue to suit themselves. I stand by my hosias (variegated), which he deplores, my candles (stumpy) and I can't wait for Christmas when, after lunch at our shiny table, we sit around our abominable tree.

KATHERINE BERGEN

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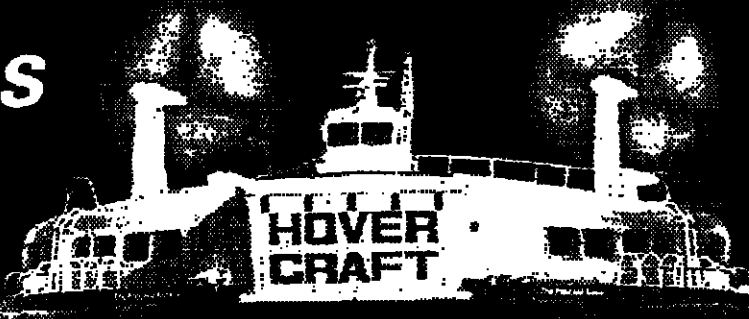
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# A day for Scotland's bravehearts

Magnus Linklater on the birth pangs of an Edinburgh parliament

If the headlines are to be believed, this morning's Cabinet committee to approve the final proposals for a Scottish parliament is the place to be. Lurid accounts of its meetings in recent weeks have told of seething rows, last-ditch battles, and bitter animosity between ministers. The "bravehearts", led by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, have apparently fought off vicious attacks from the "English nationalists" headed by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw. Jack Cunningham, Frank Dobson and others have sought and won major concessions on the powers to be retained by Westminster. Frequently, it is said, Mr Dewar has slunk back to the Scottish Office after a long day of furious debate, his face gaunt and drained.

Since that is how Mr Dewar normally looks, I am not quite sure how the reporters were able to tell. But I have no doubt that there has been friction — this, after all, is perhaps the most significant constitutional change in Britain since 1832, and next week's White Paper will reveal far-reaching plans which have lurked far too long behind anodyne statements of vague intent. Even Mr Dewar

admits it will be "controversial". It is not surprising, therefore, that the press has detected evidence of ministerial turbulence. What has been unexpected is the hostility and even contempt directed against Labour's plans by newspapers that might have been expected to welcome them. The Scotsman, whose long history of support for devolution should by rights have placed it among the cheerleaders, has been virulent in opposing what it describes as "deeply flawed" proposals. "A bastard child of constitutional compromise" was the phrase used by one of its columnists recently.

## All the key areas of contention remain as they were

You do not, however, need to be blind to the problems ahead to adopt a more constructive approach. The key areas of contention remain what they have always been: tax, the ultimate sovereignty of Westminster, and the West Lothian question. Any one of these could, of course, be enough to scupper plans for a proper rather than a pretend parliament. Too much tax and you introduce a fiscal imbalance between England and Scotland which leads to instability. Too great a legislative remit and you undermine Westminster's ultimate authority and thus the Union itself. Too many MPs denied the right to vote on Scottish matters, and you promote an English nationalist backlash. On the other hand, it is possible to go too far the other way in limiting the powers of a Scottish parliament, ending up with the "pygmy parliament" that Michael Forsyth used to deride as Secretary of State. It would be hard to imagine anything more calculated to play into the hands of the nationalists.

The alternative, and the one I expect the White Paper to

adopt, is to look at the powers held by the Scottish Office and to give them democratic form: to add limited tax-raising powers; and to ensure that the parliament has strong cross-party representation. Few people, even Scots, are aware of the present autonomy of the Scottish Office — far greater over a range of policies than any single Whitehall department, and the envy of many of them. But it is an autonomy exercised by civil servants behind closed doors. It needs to be exposed to genuine debate, to be rendered accountable and open, with MPs to challenge its assumptions as well as framing its legislation. A parliament armed with the ability to make the laws of the land and with spending powers which could influence everything from health and housing to transport and education, could be a formidable engine for change.

It would have to operate, to begin with at least, within the public funding formula which gives Scotland an advantage of some 25 per cent per head over their English counterparts. That could not be guaranteed for ever, and since there has not been a proper review since the early 1970s, there would have to be some means of reassessing it. Tax-varying powers would be included, but since these would be limited to 3 per cent on the basic rate of income tax, their effect would be at best marginal.

And the West Lothian question? My bet is that it will simply be bypassed. The number of Scottish MPs at Westminster will be left intact, their powers over local constituency matters inevitably diminished, as will those of English MPs on Scottish issues. Sooner or later, I suspect, this situation will become untenable, and the numbers of MPs from Scotland will be reduced, or their voting powers limited. But I believe that it will be tackled in the pragmatic way by which the British constitution has always changed. No likely future Government will wish to destabilise a Scottish parliament, provided it is working well.

If this new constitutional baby is to survive, it will require a large measure of goodwill, from opponents as well as faint-hearted supporters. It may not be the perfect creature that everyone wanted, but those who want to stifle it at birth should remember the fury this will cause among those who have waited so patiently for it to appear.

Finally — and I have always wanted to say "you read it here first" — it seems as if the home for the new Scottish parliament may indeed be a brand new building rather than the cramped premises in the Royal High School on Calton Hill, as I predicted recently in these columns. Let us hope the result, when it is commissioned, is a truly imaginative building, a suitable home for what is meant to be a brave new institution.



# Bishops buy a job lot

The Church of England's support for old-style state intervention is a sure route to economic damnation

On Tuesday the General Synod of the Church of England adopted an ecumenical report, *An Inquiry into Unemployment and the Future of Work*, which was presented by David Sheppard, who is shortly to retire as Bishop of Liverpool. He is a deservedly popular figure, has been an excellent bishop and is unquestionably a good man. The report represents views which are characteristic of the Roman Catholic hierarchy as much as of the Church of England. Much the same set of ideas was to be found in *Faith in the City*, a Church of England report published in 1985.

These ideas are not Marxist, but they are socialist. They were developed in the Roman Catholic Church of the late 19th century as a middle way between Marxism and a then anti-clerical liberalism. In England they owe their origin to the Webbs, to the early Fabian Society and to the writings of William Temple, who was Archbishop of Canterbury in the early 1940s.

They hold that the State should take responsibility for major economic decisions in order to promote social welfare. Specifically, they recommend a full-employment policy based on high taxation to finance the state creation of jobs. David Sheppard has a personal view that the State is now exaggerating the priority of education; the socialism of the Christian Churches has more often shared that high priority for education.

This is a substantial intellectual tradition, and it deserves to be criticised as such. It is, however, opposed to strong modern trends of economic thought, on the left as well as on the right. It is strange that in July 1997 the Church of England should formally adopt the economic philosophy of old Labour.

There are no doubt plenty of old Labour people still around, but it was new Labour, with its acceptance of open-market principles, which won the largest election victory of the century only two and a half months ago. Plainly the Church of England is out of sympathy with the open-market element in Tony Blair's thinking, however much sympathy he may have with Anglican social ideals.

It is Lionel Jospin, himself much influenced by Roman Catholic social thinking, whose vision the General

Synod seems most closely to share. He believes that state intervention, the creation of jobs by the State, and the defence of jobs, even where that means accepting low productivity, are the best way to combat unemployment. So does David Sheppard; so does the report.

For the Church of England to side with the French Socialist leader is understandable in terms of the Catholic social tradition, but is harder to justify when one looks at the level of French unemployment. After a decade and a half of French socialist policies, one person in eight in France is out of work, a much worse record than the British.

It is not only the French example which suggests that socialism, even of the Fabian or Catholic kind, is not a successful way to raise the level of employment. In the 1990s there has been a worldwide pattern of economic success which has included low taxes, relatively high growth, low government expenditure and large job creation in the private sector. The countries which have conformed to this pattern have enjoyed low unemployment.

There has also been a contrasting pattern of high taxes, relatively low growth, high public expenditure and little job creation in the private sector. These have been the countries with high unemployment.

During the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher moved Britain from the second group towards the first. Tony Blair made the historic decision to accept this part of the Thatcherite revolution. The General Synod thinks that Britain ought to move back towards the second group. What is odd is that they do so in the name of reducing unemployment, when the semi-socialist group of nations has shown a strong tendency for unemployment to rise.

Because this is a Church matter, it is natural to assume that it is also a

moral issue. It is no such thing. It is an intellectual one. People like myself, who want Britain to move further towards the open-market, low-tax group of countries, do so because we believe that it will increase job opportunities; that it will not only create more jobs, but better ones.

I do not disagree with David Sheppard's objectives of improving job opportunity and reducing unemployment. I fully share them. I do quarrel with his belief that the State can perform that function better than private individuals and businesses. All the current evidence is that the State does it much worse. What is wrong with the Church of England's policy on unemployment is that it would tend to increase unemployment, perhaps even to French levels.

That could just be an innocent error, but it is not altogether innocent. Bishops quite rightly criticise ignorant laymen who make theological pronouncements without having bothered to read any theology. Catholic bishops raise their eyebrows at journalists who think that the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the same as the doctrine of the Virgin Birth. Much innocent fun has been had from such theological blunders. But the bishops and the synod have failed to confront the intellectual case for open market economic theory. They denounce monetarism without knowing what it is. They think that Maynard Keynes is a good economist, but few of them have read *The General Theory*, they mistakenly think that Adam Smith is an out-of-date economist, but hardly one of them has read *The Wealth of Nations*. Few of them have any idea that the Austrian school ever existed.

It is entirely understandable that bishops are too busy to have acquired the knowledge needed to reach a pass in A-level economics, but they should hesitate to adopt dogmatic positions

on technical questions of which most of them are almost entirely ignorant.

There is a danger in the parochialism of the Church of England's view. The world is rapidly becoming a single economy, connected by individual personal communications via the Internet. Socialism puts economic responsibility on the national government; it assumes that the individual economy is a free-standing unit which its national government can more or less control. The Church of England now calls on the British Government to make economic interventions which obviously depend on effective power. As the global economy erodes the power of the national governments, they will not be able to carry out such policies, even if they want to. As in France, the attempt to maintain local autonomy may make whole industries non-competitive.

Already the world seems to be dividing between countries which understand the global economic change and those which are moving towards protectionism. France is now a more socialist economy than Russia; even the United States has a far higher tax regime than China. The attempt to protect local economic advantages is almost certain to fail.

The popularity of French Socialism, on which Lionel Jospin won the French election six weeks ago, is this protectionism. The General Synod has taken the same protectionist view about jobs, and calls on the British Government to create and protect "decent jobs for all". That is not possible, but the attempt could be disastrous.

However well-intentioned, such a policy cannot protect it; it is building walls of sand against the ocean. It can, however, result in over-taxation and over-regulation which can make a whole society uncompetitive. The export of jobs from Germany and France is a warning of the harm socialist economic theory can do, when it reinforces the popular demand for protectionism. Perhaps fortunately, the General Synod has little influence on national policy. The danger is much greater in Europe. There, the same Christian social policies have shaped the thinking of whole political parties. Europe is falling behind in the competition of the global economy.

# Versace and the panthers

Artists thrive on risk, says Rachel Campbell-Johnston

A gold Medusa's head was Gianni Versace's trademark. The repulsive gorgon glares from his designs — a mocking *memento mori* for sick socialites. But this emblem of gilded death attains a grislier symbolism in the light of the recent murder of Versace. This was a man who not only stitched his seams, but lived his life, along the extravagant razor's edge of danger.

Miami police are searching for one suspect: Andrew Cunanan. An embittered male prostitute with Aids and a lethal vendetta against his rich clients, Cunanan is no longer thought to have been a former lover of Versace's, though the fashion designer was a promiscuous homosexual. If it does turn out that Cunanan is his murderer, then Versace will join the long line of gay artists and writers who have suffered violence or death at the hands of "rough trade".

Examples are legion. Johann Winckelmann, the pioneer of art history and rediscoverer of the Greek ideal, met his fate at the hands of an inflammatory catamite in Trieste. More recently, the biographer James P. Pope-Hennessy was found appallingly butchered in his London flat. Pier Paolo Pasolini, who brought such bawdy adaptations as *Il Decamerone* to the screen, was bludgeoned to death by a passing piece of rough trade. Joe Orton, whose *What the Butler Saw* carried farcical traditions of threatened adultery forward into the murky realms of incest and violent sex, seemed to write himself into his own script. He too was brutally murdered by his male lover.

Homosexual artists such as Michelangelo Caravaggio, Christopher Marlowe, Arthur Rimbaud, Francis Bacon and perhaps — though the jury is still out on their talent — Robert Mapplethorpe and Derek Jarman had one thing in common: each broke down the boundaries of convention in his work. Versace too was a believer in fearless fashion. Mocking the world of *prêt à porter*, he derived inspiration from prostitution. He looked beyond the sensual and found the sexual instead. Lead and latex, body harnesses and studded skirts, spike heels and thigh length boots. Shorter, tighter, higher, deeper, became a motto. By sheer force of personality, he forced the richest and loveliest women in the world to dress like whores.

Rimbaud suggested that the artist could become a seer, a visionary, only by a long and prodigious disordering of all the senses, a balking at the limitations of the norm. It was only by going too far that there was anything to be gained, said Bacon. This ethos extended from their art into their lives. Not for these men the neat mundanity of stable structures; instead a headlong flight into the realms of risk into the underworld. Many of the most inspiring works of art expose human vulnerability by laying bare the terrifying duality of man. As Edgar Degas wrote: "Art is vice. You don't marry it legitimately, you rape it." Dionysus casts a black shadow over Apollonian order.

The urge to create is intricately entwined with the will to destroy. Revolution feasts on violence and ruin. Many of our most powerful artists did not so much develop and perfect the styles and techniques of their predecessors, as shatter them. The new was built up on the wreckage of the past. Art became the sum of its own destructions.

The sadomasochism of violent homosexual encounters is a manifestation of this instinct for destruction. But it is also concerned with the taunting play of a power, with the games of manipulation and control. With good reason, Versace was renowned for his own sexual inclinations and practices, but in his work his imagery was flagrant. Exulting in the success of his 1993 collection, he jeered at critics and customers alike: "They said these clothes belonged only in a leather bar," he bragged. "And now, last night, there were 200 socialites in bondage."

Such power play is perilous. The shadow-side of homosexual experimentation seems far from "gay" — it is driven and demonic. The light ends in the kill. Francis Bacon's lover, George Dyer, consumed by jealousies and the sour depressions of drugs and drink, chose suicide as his means of revenge. On the opening night of Bacon's 1971 Paris retrospective, when adulating audiences lined the boulevards, he overdosed in his hotel room. Bacon's famous triptych depicting his lover's last hours show with mixed brutality and tenderness images of Dyer vomiting in a basin, sliding through shadows, and slumped on the lavatory pan as he finally passed away.

And so the fatal triangle of art, sex and death has claimed another victim. The ambitions of these destructive geniuses are symbolised by Christopher Marlowe's two great dramatic creations — Faustus, who sells his soul to the Devil, and Tamburlaine, who tries to conquer the world. Like Versace, Marlowe was mysteriously murdered: whether a contract killing, or a quarrel arising from a homosexual affair, it was a sordid death. Oscar Wilde liked to speak of "feasting" with panthers. Panthers are not pussycats.

# Re-lease me

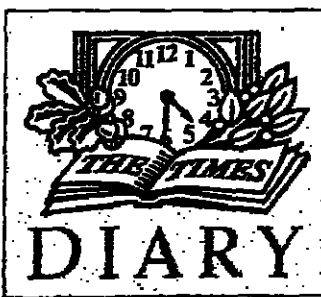
WANTED: Tory sympathiser with £3 million-plus to buy the freehold to Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square, London SW1, built in 1939 and home to the Tory party's headquarters since 1959, is being sold by Royal Sun Alliance, the recently merged insurance company which is tidying up its property investments.

The Tories bought the freehold to the building in 1981 from Westminster council for £1,325,000; then, in a piece of financial legerdemain, sold it in 1982 for £3,750,000 to a group

packed with Tory dignitaries called the Bourne Association, who promptly leased it back to the party for 250 years at a peppercorn rent. Polky, and representing the worst of late-Eighties grey, pink and blue corporate design, it is prehistoric compared with the Labour Party's Star Trek-style Millbank headquarters. On the other hand, the lease on it has been useful collateral when party chairmen, most recently Brian Mawhinney, have had to take out bank loans to fund election campaigns.

Lord Harris of Peckham, the former Tory party treasurer, was known to hate the place, and regularly advocated a move to a proper, purpose-built office block. William Hague's management consultants are likely to support him, particularly if the building is bought by someone unsympathetic to the Tories, say Mohamed Al Fayed. "It would be a relief to get out," says one of those still working there. "It looks like a stale Battenberg cake and has all the atmosphere of an Ostend brothel."

After my note on Saturday concerning the ever-more porky figure of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, action seems to have been taken. Lunch with Cook at



the Foreign Office now consists of sandwiches and warm water — not a glass of wine or beer in sight. Meanwhile, the food at the Foreign Secretary's official residence, Carlton Gardens, is at an all-time low. Recent visitors describe meals of Dickensian meanness: no scarer, boned lamb cutlets sliced as thin as the cucumber in a duchess's teatime sandwich, and peach halves with shaving-foam cream.

## Oh, crumbs

STARKLY differing accounts are emerging on the subject of the Prime Minister's diet. When in London, it seems wild horses could not keep him out of its flashy metropolitan restaurants: Le Pont de la Tour with Clinton, the River Café with Lord Rogers of Riverside, Granita in Islington with Gordon Brown. Ask his Labour friends in the North of England and they tell

you that Blair cannot get enough of the stonier, a sort of Gordian knot.

It fell to Ronnie Campbell, MP for Blyth Valley, to bring one to a gathering at No 10 this week. Labour MPs from the North East. "As soon as Campbell walked in Blair was demanding his stonier," says Stephen Hepburn, MP for Jarrow. "He eats one every night before bed." The tales of the PM's diet grew ever more improbable with the intervention of John Birt, Blair's constituency agent from Sedgefield. "Tony is certainly partial to a stonier, especially with his fish and chips when he comes



home." Presumably served up by Cherie slapping around in apron and silver mules.

Still wallowing in his victory at the British Grand Prix on Sunday, Jacques Villeneuve, the racing driver, was smartly reminded of Britain's hard-won reputation as the sporting capital of Europe when his moped and helmet were stolen from the Northamptonshire countryside. Police recovered the moped in the hideous Preston Court Lumbertubs area of Northampton. Five youths have been arrested and released on bail charged with the theft. The helmet is still at large.

## Dear John

LIKE just another designer swimsuit, the pop singer Elton John has been cast aside by his friend Diana, Princess of Wales. The two had grown close through their shared interests in fashion and AIDS charities. Close friends of John, however, say the pair have fallen out.

The spat originated in February when Diana withdrew her support from the Rock and Royalty Aids benefit ball organised by John. She objected to a racy book of photographs put together by the murdered fashion designer Gianni Versace to accompany the ball. As a result, John called off the whole



Elton John: hurt not angry

show. While planning the ball, John is said to have suggested to Diana that she might care to auction off some of her dresses to raise money. When Diana followed up the suggestion, however, she publicly attributed it to her son, Prince William, leaving John peeved. John wrote to the Princess recently expressing his sorrow about the turn their relationship was taking. Instead of an olive branch, he received a stiff, formal letter advising him to send any further correspondence via the Buckingham Palace postroom. "Elton used to be a great admirer of Diana," said one close friend of the singer's, "but now he just feels hurt."

P.H.S



Tory Central Office: for sale

ملّة امّ الاصل





## EASTWARD, LOOK

The beginning of open warfare over EU enlargement

The European Commission has christened its fat time on managing the eastward enlargement of the European Union *Agenda 2000*. This overworked millennial imagery has rarely been less apposite. No one expects the European Union to admit new members by 2000, and the Commission's own deliberately vague target of around 2002 is unlikely to be met. With the partial exception of Britain and the Scandinavians, enlargement is not so much on the back burner in most EU countries as clean out of the kitchen.

The retreat is most marked in Germany, once enlargement's continental champion. For all the warm words that Helmut Kohl lavished on Poland's Prime Minister this week between mouthfuls of pig-stomach, he was careful not to name the day; and in Austria last month Karl Lamers, his confidant and Christian Democrat spokesman, let slip 15 years as a probable timetable.

The main reason is not far to seek. The obsessive pursuit of economic and monetary union has warped what was once a clear political perception of the gains in security and economic dynamism to be had by embracing Europe's new democracies. The toll the EMU project has taken both on jobs and on trust between rulers and ruled has sapped the will of EU leaders to tackle the indispensable reforms of the EU's political structures, regional aids and calamitous common agricultural policy (CAP).

Credibly, the Commission has chosen to ignore the way the ground is heaving beneath its feet. That is no thanks to Jacques Santer, who in deference to Herr Kohl would have restricted the first wave to three of the ten European applicants — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. But Sir Leon Brittan and Hans van den Broek won the argument that Slovenia and Estonia were as well qualified and that to be credible, the Commission must stick to the "objective criteria" laid down in 1993.

Politically, that is the right decision now. But a caveat must be entered. The Copenhagen criteria require new members to take on board the entire shipload of EU regulations and to observe Maastricht's financial disciplines. Rigidly applied, this would impose on them economic, monetary and other restraints inappropriate to countries in rapid transition, stunting the growth which they need to catch up with the mature EU economies. Only if the EU is flexible about these

can the full economic as well as political potential of enlargement be tapped — and the costs of enlargement contained. But its bean-counting, unpopular politicians are in no mood to explain why the "unfair advantage" of low-wage competition from these countries would be good for Europe's future competitiveness and economic health.

Flexibility towards the East needs to be matched by radicalism at home, beginning with regional aids and agriculture, which between them swallow around 90 per cent of the EU budget. Unreformed, the costs of both would soar under enlargement. The Commission rightly wants to concentrate regional aid; it is absurd that 51 per cent of EU citizens now receive such benefits. But this will be so bitterly resisted, particularly by Spain, that if the issue is not to hold up enlargement indefinitely the wisest tactic for the applicants might be to say that they were content to do without such subsidies.

Even without enlargement, the CAP has become indefensible. It benefits most rich farmers who least need help. Of this Brussels is now persuaded. The trouble is that most of them are in France and Germany, which together pocket 40 per cent of all CAP payments. Their farm lobbies are denouncing *Agenda 2000* as an "aggression". In fact the Commission's proposals, building on the 1992 reforms, are a brave further move in the right direction of weaning farmers off price supports, compensating with direct income supplements. But in terms of the Commission's ultimate aim, a policy that safeguards not just individual farms but the improved health of the broader rural economy, Robin Cook was right yesterday to call for "a still more radical strategy".

His valour in the coming battle will be tested soon enough, as will his optimistic assertion that the EU is at last "moving away from introspection about our institutions". The serious bargaining will start in January, when Britain sits in the EU chair. Speedy enlargement will be the cardinal measure of Tony Blair's claims about Britain's "leadership" in Europe. Can he break the logjams? Can he raise people's eyes to the really important horizon? Can he rescue the interests of the Central Europeans from the long grass into which they have been kicked? This Government's honourable place in history will be secure if he succeeds; but Messrs Blair and Cook will have their work cut out.

## DOBSON'S CHOICE

Labour elevates dubious equality over proven excellence

The Government's bearded Bourbon yesterday tried simultaneously to wrench the clock back to an imagined Utopia and suspend the laws of supply and demand. Frank Dobson's decision to end GPs' "queue-jumping" in the name of fairness may win easy populist cheers but it serves patients and the health service ill. The Secretary of State has a keen awareness of the dangers to the NHS of bureaucracy, which is why his decision to cripple the Tory reform which did most for efficiency is all the more regrettable.

Mr Dobson invokes in his defence the shade of Aneurin Bevan. The NHS, he argues, was established to provide care on the basis of proven need, not ability to pay. It is an admirable sentiment, but it sits on Mr Dobson's lips like the Lord's Prayer on a child's, revered but barely understood. The ability of GP fundholders to secure better treatment for their patients is nothing to do with fat cats elbowing to the front of the queue, rather it gives GPs and their patients the whiphand over consultants and managers who previously ran the health service for their convenience. Fundholding has seen the many, the patients, empowered at the expense of the few, the professionals.

The "queue-jumping" which so exercises Mr Dobson was closer to queue-shrinking. By giving doctors the power to take their custom elsewhere hospitals were forced to smarten up their acts and cut waiting times. GPs did not need to exercise the power, and not all GPs needed to have it, for the threat to

work. As Professor Rudolf Klein has pointed out in *The New Politics of the NHS*, the prospect of losing some patients has spurred all consultants to adopt new guidelines and protocols which define quality care, improving standards for all.

This can be caricatured as a "two-tier" system but the NHS has never been able to guarantee absolute equity. It has always been easier to secure, say, a hip transplant in Harrogate than in Hamilton. What fundholding does is to use competition to drive down waiting times across the board. Some may wait longer than others but everyone will, ultimately, be better off than before. Professor Howard Glenister, in his book *Implementing Fundholding: Wild Card or Winning Hand?* demolished the arguments for abolishing fundholding because it created a "two-tier" service. The Labour-supporting academic concluded that, "to argue for the abolition of fundholding on this ground is perverse. It is akin to the philosophical paradox that equality in human needs can best be achieved by starving everyone."

The collectivisation of GP practices into commissioning groups will, at least, still allow the providers of primary care a stronger voice than they had before 1991, but the most effective weapon GPs could wield on behalf of their patients has been decommissioned. Doctors are taught that direct surgical intervention should be resisted whenever possible; it is a pity that Mr Dobson ignores best clinical practice.

## JUNK FICTION?

Finding out what one wants to read is a step in growing up

The Booker Prize of the playground has been awarded to a novel about teenage drug-addicts. *Junk*, by Melvin Burgess, has won the Library Association's Carnegie Medal. This tells the story of self-deluding teenagers who think that they can handle heroin but find that it has them in its frightening grip. Its principal characters are on a downward escalator through squatting, theft, drug-addiction, prostitution and pregnancy.

According to the judges, *Junk* is an extraordinary, ground-breaking book. But *Mary Poppins* it ain't. And already there have been ritual cries of outrage from the media (not all from the headless chicken end of the street) about the bleakness of the topics in the Carnegie shortlist. Besides drugs, these include arson, bullying and the death of a child on an operating table. It is the prerogative of the older generation down the ages to fret about what its young are reading.

But fairy stories are not sweetness and light. They have room for ogres, witches, cannibals and serial killers. The Grimm brothers collected horrifying folktales. Jack the Giant-Killer and *Morte D'Arthur* include tawdry and serial adultery. And in the first story in English, Grendel's mother is an unsuitable role model. Freud and Jung

could discover dark roots in the sunniest wonderlands. The imaginative shudder is as important a part of growing through reading as the peculiarly English oo over animal anthropomorphism. *Stig of the Dump* is popular because he is disgusting without the discomfort. *Everyone Poops* rather than *Winnie the Pooh* rides high on the bestseller lists because it treats an unmentionable body process which fascinates children.

It was a Romantic fallacy to suppose that childhood experience was a world of its own, and that children's literature must be didactic and improving. But once teenagers start to read for pleasure, they have crossed a write of passage into the grown-up world. Like adults, they will read about the things that they talk about in the playground. And there are no go-go areas in print. The schoolchildren who shadowed the Carnegie Medal shortlist for themselves this year showed more maturity than its critics. As we report on our Arts pages, one of them said: "It's not books which corrupt people: it's other people." And the children voted unanimously for *Junk* as the winner. Children should be given a chance to think for themselves. They do, and they will. That is part of reading up and growing up.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Concern on ethical abortion practice

From Mr Nicholas Beale, the Rev Dr J. C. Polkinghorne, FRS, and Professor Lord Winston

Sir, Although we differ about the circumstances, if any, in which they are allowable, we all agree that abortions should not be performed if there is no genuine substantial risk to the physical or mental health of the mother or children. This is clearly what was intended by the 1967 Abortion Act. But it is also clear that there is, at least, a widespread perception that abortion is effectively available on demand in the UK, especially for those prepared to pay for it. The recent reports of so-called "lunch-hour abortions" for £285 (report, later editions, June 28) reinforce this perception.

An urgent review is needed of the operation of the Abortion Act to ensure that all clinics operate within the letter and spirit of the law. Public support for healthcare and the development of new treatments depends on public confidence that all doctors and clinics are operating to the highest ethical and legal standards.

Yours sincerely,  
NICHOLAS BEALE,  
JOHN POLKINGHORNE,  
ROBERT WINSTON,  
c/o Scheib,  
1 Hay Hill,  
Berkeley Square, W1,  
July 9.

### Freedom's boundaries

From Mr Peter Le Cheminant

Sir, To me, as an ex-Mandarin, the present controversy over "freedom of information" has a familiar ring (leading article, July 12; letters, July 15). Politicians so often think broad-brush and loathe being asked to define their proposals in detail. But the law has to be precise, and the devil frequently lies in the small print.

For instance, many advocates of freedom of information believe that the tax returns of ministers and MPs should remain private; yet the US Congress has no inhibitions about demanding, and publishing, this sort of information about candidates for high office.

Only ministers (and Parliament) can decide where the boundaries of freedom lie. Those in the Civil Service who ask awkward questions are only doing what they are paid for, and reasonably competent civil servants have nothing to fear from the opening of the books.

Politicians, on the other hand, are mostly petrified that their reasoning/motivation may be exposed to public gaze. It will be fun to see who wins.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER LE CHEMINANT  
(Second Permanent Secretary,  
Cabinet Office (Management and  
Personnel Office), 1983-84),  
The Reform Club,  
104 Pall Mall, SW1,  
July 16.

### A 'say' on Amsterdam

From Mr Nigel Lea-Jones

Sir, "That is why," concluded Michael Howard, now Shadow Foreign Secretary, in his letter (July 9), "the British people should be allowed their say on the Amsterdam treaty before it is ratified."

He will understand, I am sure, why the many people who campaigned so vigorously for such a "say" on the Maastricht treaty are hardly impressed by the lateness of this call. Coming from a leading member of the previous Government, such a stand of principle would then have been a substantial benefit in the cause of addressing our democratic deficit.

Let him be in no doubt that it was the decisions of people of consistently Conservative principles that led to Mr Howard and his colleagues now being in Opposition, or out of Parliament altogether.

We have not solved Maastricht/Amsterdam; but the supreme arrogance that thought we have no choice has been addressed.

Yours sincerely,  
NIGEL LEA-JONES,  
48 Elm Park Mansions,  
Park Walk, SW10,  
July 9.

### Versace's Italy

From Miss Antonia Lloyd-Jones

Sir, I was interested to learn from your obituary of Gianni Versace today that in Italy "bourgeois Roman and Milanese girls flee to Calabria and Sicily in the summer with the express purpose of losing their virginity to the swarthy southern men".

Eager to demonstrate my enlightenment in the course of polite office conversation, I asked my Italian colleague, Stefania, who comes from a well-to-do Milanese family, whether she had fled to Calabria or Sicily for her own deflowering. Not only did she deny either location, she seemed offended by the question.

Could *The Times* be mistaken in its judgment of these ladies or perhaps is racist as well as sexist?

Yours sincerely,  
ANTONIA LLOYD-JONES,  
82 Lakeside Road, W14,  
July 16.

### Broader debate on 'fat cat' lawyers

From Mr Tim O'Flynn

Sir, The new Lord Chancellor's attack on the earnings of "fat cat" lawyers (report, July 15) should not be confined to those few specialised QC's who receive over £1 million a year. They should also address some of the more modest earners.

Those of us who practise in the family courts frequently see local authorities being unable to fulfil their statutory requirements to support and assist dysfunctional families through a lack of funds. We also see QC's in our own line of work putting in claims for tens of thousands of pounds for a few weeks' work in family cases.

Compare the cars that arrive in the court car parks. Out of the shiny new BMW's and Audis step the barristers to do a day or two's work. Out of the second-hand and battered Vauxhalls step the social workers who spend months and years working with these damaged children and families.

A redistribution of public funding from the legal aid fund to social services would not just help the alienated members of our society. It would also be just.

Yours faithfully,  
TIM O'FLYNN  
(Barrister),  
13 Dover Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight,  
July 15.

From the Chairman of the Bar Council

Sir, In May 1996 the Commons Public Accounts Committee heard evidence from the Lord Chancellor's Department to the effect that the drop in the total number of civil cases in recent years was due in part to the deterrent effect of High Court fees.

That was before the dramatic rise in court costs imposed by the last Government in January 1997. For that reason the Bar Council opposed the rise and welcomed yesterday's debate in the House of Lords as to the validity of the policy which underlay the rise — namely, the recovery of the full cost of running the civil courts from litigants.

The substantial fees earned by top

lawyers, be they solicitors or barristers, in the conduct of commercial litigation are irrelevant to this issue. Such fees are negotiated at arm's length in a free market and do not affect access to justice for those of modest means.

If the cost of using the courts is such as to deter individuals or small businesses from pursuing or defending their legal rights, then the price is too high.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT OWEN,  
Chairman,  
General Council of the Bar,  
1 Crown Office Row, Temple, EC4,  
July 15.

From Mr Jeffery McCann

Sir, The Lord Chancellor has berated (a limited number of) QC's for earning £1 million per annum. Were such earnings paid from the public purse I would wholeheartedly agree.

Such, however, is not the case. They are almost invariably commercial in nature, and those privately paying clients apparently consider the money well spent. The wisdom of this is a matter for them (the clients).

Yours sincerely,  
JEFFERY MCCANN,  
3 Linley Court,  
Rouse Gardens, Dulwich, SE21,  
July 15.

From Mr Peter Durrant

Sir, The comments by Lord Irvine of Lairg are merely the latest example of such criticism to be expressed by a high-ranking lawyer. I suspect they are intended to fool us into thinking that something might one day happen to reduce these exorbitant charges, aptly summed up by Hilaire Belloc's rhyme about physicians:

They answered, as they took their fees,  
'There is no cure for this Disease.'

Yours faithfully,  
PETER DURRANT,  
13 Coppice Way,  
South Woodford, E18,  
July 15.

to track, down the originator. Those who have to forward junk mail to new addresses and the Royal Mail, which transports forwarded letters free of charge, are involved in considerable waste of time or additional costs by these poor practices.

The direct-mail industry should be compelled (either by a code or by law) to include in every mailshot a reply-paid card which invites the recipient to advise of any change of address and to state whether he or she wishes to continue to receive mail from that source.

Yours sincerely,  
BARBARA GOODWIN  
(Professor of Politics),  
University of East Anglia,  
School of Economics and  
Social Studies,  
Norwich NR4 7TJ,  
July 16.

From Sir Bryan Askew

Sir, Any junk mail which includes a reply-paid envelope receives a request to delete my name from the sender's mailing list.

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN ASKEW,  
27 Golf Links Avenue,  
Tadcaster, North Yorkshire,  
July 14.

cathedral itself, accurately giving the note for the Amen of the St Oswald's Eve collect.

His first and dramatic appearance was in the centre of the deanery pediment, where he remained ornamentally motionless for several hours, an extra diversion for the diocesan clergy wives' annual party. He later made his home in a yew tree near the east end of the cathedral, where he would respond in kind to the encouraging hoots of passers-by in the know.

Only those who feared for their small pets, or were kept awake at night in the Dolphin and Anchor opposite, failed to mourn his return to captivity after weeks of stardom. At least he survived — fewer pigeons, but healthier surroundings.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY HOLBY,  
4 Hutton Hall, Huttons Ambro,  
York, North Yorkshire,  
July 9.

### Thrill of the chase

From Mr Andrew King

Sir, You report (July 11) that Baroness Mallett told the Countryside Alliance rally: "Hunting is our music, it is our poetry, it is our art, it is our pleasure. It is where many of our best friendships are made. It is our community. It is our whole way of life."

Did anyone overstate the case?

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW KING,  
32 Priory Street,  
Colchester, Essex,  
July 11.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Future of Radio 4 and 'right to fail'

From Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the BBC

Sir, Brenda Maddox's testy Media column today, "BBC Governors, please stand up for our rights", is wrong, premature and confused.

She is wrong to distinguish Michael Grade's ritual attack on the BBC from the remainder of his interminable speech; it was just as boring as the rest.

She is premature in encouraging BBC Governors to resign over a rumoured assault on Radio 4 — and whatever else she may hold against us, the charge of failing to understand the values of the "great mass of middle England that structures its day by Radio 4" just won't wash. Any changes in the Radio 4 schedule will be based on a careful, thorough process of internal and external discussion and analysis, and will improve the way in which Radio 4 serves its unique audience.

Finally, she is confused when she attributes John Birt's recognition of two dramas as noble failures, in what was an outstanding year for BBC programmes, to an unwillingness to take risks. It is an important concomitant of the right to fail that we recognise those of our programmes that have not succeeded, and try to understand why.

In Brenda Maddox's jaundiced eye, the BBC is damned when it does and damned when it doesn't.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER BLAND,  
Chairman,  
British Broadcasting Corporation,  
Broadcasting House,  
Portland Place, W1,  
July 16.

From Ms Margaret Quass

Sir, I read with mounting horror today's report on the plans of Radio 4's new Controller, Mr Martin Boyle, to axe or reschedule many of the station's most valuable programmes. However, I was much encouraged at finding Michael Gove (although not yet 30 and thus less than half my age) had perfectly expressed my views in the same issue ("Don't play dumb with Radio 4").

I still miss *Stop the Week* on Saturday evenings and will find it intolerable to start the week on Monday mornings without the eponymous programme. Mr Boyle is presumably deserting his present listeners in the hope of attracting some hypothetical younger audience which does not exist. Others have done it before him with dire results.

New, imaginative programmes are always welcome but they should be designed to stretch us rather than shrink us: to educate and inform as well as to entertain. *Medium Wave*, *Quote... Unquote* and *Science Now* are three examples, all apparently under threat.

Where is the transparency and accountability we were promised? Let us hope that the Governors are more in touch with Radio 4 listeners than Mr Boyle. If so, they will throw out his abominable plan and advise him to follow Michael Gove's prescription.

Yours etc,  
MARGARET QUASS,  
Flat 4, 113 Broadhurst Gardens, NW6,  
July 14.

From Mr Charles Pearmain

Sir, I am horrified — if not surprised — at the proposed emasculation of BBC Radio 4's programme schedules.

I regard Radio 4 as an invaluable source of entertainment, but more importantly of information. It is already an entire magazine of programmes, offering a greater depth of detail and understanding than almost any other service. Earlier attempts to turn it into an ersatz Radio 2, such as *Anderson Country* and *The Afternoon Shift*, met with strong opposition from those who enjoy some depth to the programmes they listen to. They have done nothing to increase listening figures.

A few blemishes need correcting — the dependence on 1950s humour and the obsession with "current affairs" — and some plain words need excising. The BBC should carry out corrective surgery by all means, but the latest proposals will leave the patient an empty husk.

Yours etc,  
CHARLES PEARMAIN,  
Michaelmas House,  
Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire,  
cpearmain@compulink.co.uk

From Sir David Lane

Sir, Thank you for Michael Gove's brilliant article today.

If the rumours of proposed changes to Radio 4 are well-founded, let us hope that the BBC Governors will intervene to prevent yet another downgrading of British life.

Yours truly,  
DAVID LANE,  
5 Spinney Drive,  
Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire,  
July 14.

### Virtually the same?

From Mr D. O. E. Batten

Sir, Is there a difference between virtual reality (letters, July 7, 8, 12, 15) and complete self-delusion?

Yours faithfully,  
D. BATTEN  
Christmas Cottage,  
Ridlington, Oakham, Rutland,  
July 15.

Yours sincerely,  
KENNETH GULLEFORD,  
26 Wakelin Chase,  
Ingatstone, Essex.







ALWYN McKAY

**LORD HARDINGE OF PENSHURST**

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## NEW POET LAUREATE.

### APPOINTMENT OF MR. ROBERT BRIDGES

**ROBERT BRIDGES.**  
The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Robert Bridges, D.Litt., to be Poet Laureate.

Mr Bridges, who was born in 1844, was educated at Eton and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, of which he is an honorary Fellow. After leaving Oxford he spent some time travelling, and subsequently studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He became casualty physician at St. Bartholomew's, and afterwards held appointments at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond-street, and the Great Northern Hospital. He retired in 1882. An estimate of his poetry will be found in our leading article.

The New Poet Laureate.

The appointment of Mr. Robert Bridges as Poet Laureate puts a very satisfactory conclusion to a widespread controversy. For some reason, the general public appears to have taken an unprecedented interest in the question who was to succeed Mr. Alfred Austin, or whether anyone was to succeed him. Many expressed the opinion that the office of Poet Laureate had outlived its purpose and its honour, and should be

## ON THIS DAY

**July 17, 1913**

"The honour paid to Mr Bridges is an honour paid to poetry. Mr Bridges, as poet, is no politician," wrote *The Times* on his appointment. A shrewd comment, since Bridges's predecessor, Alfred Austin, perhaps the least regarded of modern laureates, had obtrusive political views.

abolished. Sir Herbert Beerhohn Tree, in his recently-published volume, makes the half-jocular suggestion that the office should be maintained, but conferred (in a manner which would have a Chinese flavour about it) on a poet already dead — "to benefit his family and to point out the beauties of his works to an otherwise indifferent posterity". The correspondence columns of the newspapers have held many letters from people who had each his favourite to recommend to notice. In nearly every case among these last it was to be observed that the claim was made not solely on the grounds of poetry. Politics, partly

patriotism (in the narrower sense) seemed to be the determining factors

It is not wholly improbable that these considerations may have had some indirect influence on the appointment of Mr. Robertson Bridges. Whether it be so or not, the honour paid to Mr. Bridges is an honour paid to poetry. Mr. Bridges, as poet, is no politician. He is a poet and an earnest student and practitioner of the art and the science of poetry. Mr. Bridges has given to poetry what *Seymour Haden* gave to etching, and more. He has studied profoundly and practically the origins, the values, the philosophy of words, the laws of metres. Prose is not an art, but poetry is. Mr. Bridges knows that, and the world knows Mr. Bridges. His work on the *metrical* of Milton began a new chapter in criticism; and only the week before last we reviewed in the *Literary Supplement* his authoritative and daring book on the mispronunciation of English. To these and other critical tasks he has brought learning, fine taste, courage and science; while, as the author of narrative and lyrical poems and of poetical plays, he has exhibited, in addition to these qualities, a lofty passion for poetic beauty. The passion of the artist for his art is the passion of the poet. Mr. Bridges's art is poetry, and an honour paid to him is an honour paid to poetry for her own sake.



# Bargains of the week: Mexico for a fortnight, free meals in Madeira, three nights for the price of two in France

## HOLIDAYS

■ **TURKEY** for a week for £319 a person with a flight from Gatwick on July 27 is on offer from Accommodation Overseas and includes B&B in two-star hotels in Dalaman or Hissarolu. Price based on two sharing. Details: 0181-977 2984.

■ **ST LUCIA** for a week with room-only accommodation for £499 a person (children £349) is among reduced Caribbean offers from Style Holidays. Fly from Gatwick on July 27. Details: 0181-568 1999.

■ **MAGIC** of Egypt tours for eight days — flying from Heathrow on July 28 and taking in the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings — are available from Bales Tours for £620 a person, including B&B accommodation. Details: 01306 885991.

■ **AN AUBERGE** in the Ardege region of the Pyrenees with excellent views and ancient sites near by is available on certain dates from The Gascony Secret. Price: £300 a person in a party of two with a week's B&B and ferry crossing. Details: 01284 827253.

■ **ALL-INCLUSIVE** holidays in a resort in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for £899 for a fortnight are available from Airtours with flights from Gatwick and Manchester every Monday in August. Details: 0841 507109.

■ **CYCLING** through the Cotswolds on a planned route from Leamington to Cheltenham is available from Compass Holidays for £299 a person including six nights accommodation in small hotels and inns. Service back-up, tour packs, cycle hire available. Details: 01242 250642.

■ **A SAFARI** package to South Africa for ten days is available for £899 a person from Travelplanners with a flight from Gatwick on August 16, hotel accommodation in Johannesburg and Durban and escorted tours to game reserves. Details: 0990 280083.

■ **THE Costa Brava** for £289 a person for Bank Holiday week in self-catering accommodation, with a flight from Glasgow on August 24, is on offer from Cosmos. Details: 0161-480 5799.

## FERRIES

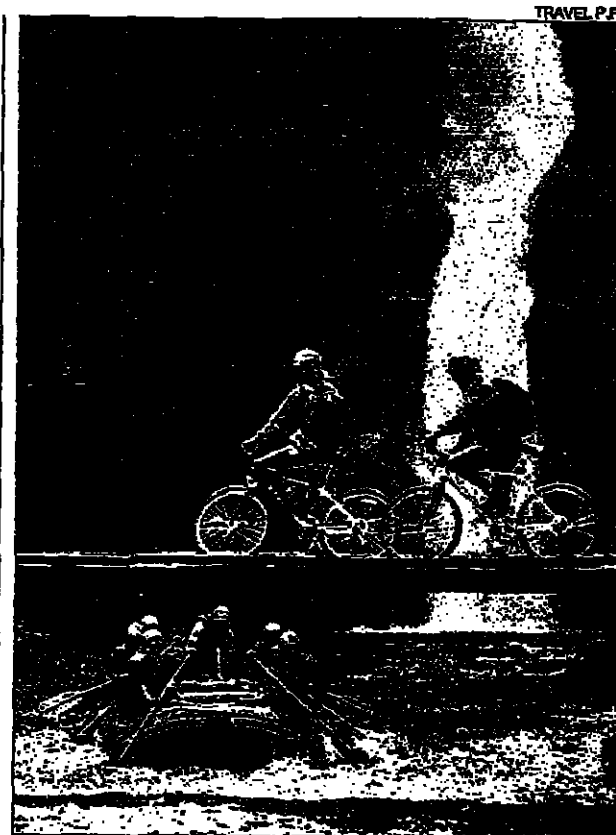
■ **SEA France** has cut peak prices on Dover-Calais to £95 return for a car and nine passengers. Bookings by July 26 for travel by August 31. Details: 0990 711711.

■ **IRISH Ferries** has seven-night holidays leaving July 26 in apartments in Co. Clare, from £140 per person based on four adults travelling. Details: 0990 170000.

■ **TRAVEL agents** A.T. Mays and Artac WorldChoice have several ferry deals on routes to France and Ireland. They include £110 returns on P&O's Dover-Calais route. Details: 0990 000888.

■ **HOVERBOARD** has £129 crossings on Folkestone-Boulogne for a car and five passengers. Bookings must be made 14 days in advance. Valid until August 31. Details: 0990 240241.

■ **SCANDINAVIAN** Seaways has an eight-night holiday to Lakeland Holiday Centre in Jura, departing July 31, for £1,140, for a family of four, including crossing. Details: 0990 333111.



VFB Holidays is offering £50 off France Active adventure holidays taken after August 20 provided bookings are made before July 30. Two adults and two children can spend seven nights in Les Deux-Alpes near Grenoble in a self-catering apartment for £428. Telephone: 01242 240332.

## FLIGHTS

■ **QANTAS** and BA have new excursion fares from £769 to all major Australian gateways with a stopover in Bangkok, Singapore or Tokyo, plus two flights within Australia. Travel between August 10 and November 30, or January 21 to March 31. Details: 0345 747161.

■ **AIR UK's** latest Eurofly fares cost £69 to Amsterdam, Copenhagen £89, Dusseldorf £89, plus Hamburg and Munich £99. Details: 0345 666771.

■ **AB Shannon** has added weekend flights on the Gatwick-Shannon service, starting at £75 return. Details: 0345 464748.

■ **LUPUS Travel** has special excursion fares to most Italian destinations, ranging from Milan and Venice to Brindisi and Palermo. Prices range between £160 and £240. Book by today for Rome, Milan and Venice. Details: 0171-306 3000.

■ **ATAB** has a Crossair excursion from London City to Geneva priced between £129 and £159. Details: 0171-636 5000.

## HOTELS

■ **THE Millennium & Copthorne** Hotels chain is offering two nights accommodation with breakfast at 11 four-star hotels throughout the UK for £99 a couple until August 31. Other discounted offers are available at the chain's continental hotels. Details: 0645 455445.

■ **LUCKNAM** Park Hotel near Bath is offering a two-course lunch in its Michelin-starred restaurant for £10 a person until July 27 as part of the Bath International Taste Extravaganza Festival. Details: 01225 742777.

■ **TO CELEBRATE** the golden wedding anniversary of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the Priest House hotel on the banks of the River Trent near Castle Donington has a special offer until the end of the year for couples celebrating their 50th anniversary. The two-night package costs £54 a person a night and includes dinner, champagne, chocolates and flowers. Details: 01332 810649.

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# Where to find last-minute breaks

By TONY DAWES

IF YOU'VE left booking your summer holiday until the last moment and the schools have already broken up there are thousands of places still available for those prepared to be flexible. But they do not come at bargain prices.

Those who have delayed booking a summer holiday in the hope of last-minute discounts are almost certain to be disappointed. Travel agents and tour operators expect strong demand to continue as people benefit from building society and insurance company windfalls.

The Spanish islands of Majorca, Ibiza and the Canaries continue to be the most popular destinations. Few packages remain. For long-haul holidaymakers, Florida is the prime target.

For those eager to cross the Channel to take advantage of ten French francs to the pound, few berths remain on the western routes.

But space can always be found, although it may be at inconvenient times, on the Dover-Calais crossing. In Britain, holiday cottages and hotel rooms are at a premium in the most popular areas including the West Country, Cotswolds and Lake District but tourist offices say that accommodation is available for those willing to stay a few miles from "the honeypots".

Thomas Cook reports that 80 per cent of holiday packages up until the end of August are sold out and though plenty may still be available, the travel agency warns customers that "unless you are flexible on dates and airports, you may be unlucky".

A spokesman adds: "Prices are generally higher than last year. The average price for one person for a week is £360. Greece, Turkey and Tunisia are cheaper. We expect July

and August to sell out. If anything, prices will harden. The excellent exchange rate is encouraging people to travel. Demand is strong and will probably remain strong until mid-September."

Helen Liversedge of Thomson, Britain's leading tour operator, says that the inconsistent weather in Britain and the strength of the pound have helped to swell bookings this summer. She estimates that 8.8 million holidaymakers will have travelled abroad by the end of the season.

"Tour operators have matched supply and demand well this year," she says, "so discounting in peak season is minimal. Flights are available to some of the popular resorts, but holiday beds are scarce."

The company still has some attractively priced holidays available for the first weeks of the summer

holidays. A week's self-catering in Malta, with a flight from Gatwick next Tuesday, costs £293 a person, and a fortnight's self-catering in Turkey with a flight from Gatwick the next day is available for £395 a person.

Thomson adds that some cruise holidays also remain available throughout the summer because the leading operators have extended their programmes.

Lynn Poly advises that families who have left it late will still get a holiday, but they must be flexible. A spokesman says: "If, for example, they want a hotel they may have to take self-catering or vice versa. Flights from Gatwick and Manchester are still not sold, but you might have to be flexible on time and take a night flight to Europe or a less convenient flight to America."

He adds that France is a good place to try because the strong pound has

only recently made it more affordable, so there have been fewer early bookings. The company is still offering £50 off French Life holidays from its Best of France brochure.

Brittany Ferries, however, is almost fully booked — except for foot passengers — on its popular Portsmouth-Si Malo route. The first availability is midweek in late August. Return journeys are also fully booked until September 1. There is still some availability on the Portsmouth-Caen route. Brittany Ferries holiday homes are also almost sold out until after August 26.

Peter Chappelow, managing director of Country Holidays, a group with 10,000 holiday cottages on offer in Britain, says that those in "the honeypots" are fully booked and the only hope of getting a place in most popular West Country and Lake District areas is to find a last-minute cancellation.



## Tourism and the road to recovery

Well over half of the 5.5 billion photographs taken each month are snapped by travellers and holidaymakers. And more than 20 per cent of the revenue taken by London shops comes from foreign visitors. These two facts illustrate how important travel and tourism is, not only as the world's fastest-growing industry, but also to other apparently unrelated activities.

If more people travel they will want more films, so more workers will be needed to make them and to process the resulting snaps. As shops rake in the money from visitors, so they can

ernment works with rather than against, the industry. It needs, for example, to ensure that teachers impress on youngsters that a job in the hospitality industry — covering all aspects of travel, transport, accommodation, food and drink, retail, information, reservations, leisure centres, visitor attractions, heritage sites, theatres, restaurants, castles, seaside piers, fashion shows, airlines, ferries and many more — is exciting and important. Too often it is looked down on as menial and dull.

Further education must also be geared towards producing the kind of people the industry wants. For example, 43 institutions now offer 75 tourism degree courses, and by 2000 will be producing 4,000 graduates a year.

But what the industry wants is not academics versed in the theoretical aspects of tourism, but people who have learnt how to recognise real customer needs and how to supply them. This means hands-on, practical training. The Government must also learn to keep its fingers out of the till. It is all too easy for Gordon Brown — as other politicians around the world have done and come to regret — to regard the tourism industry as a cow to be milked at will. But every additional pound in tax means fewer visitors to provide the additional jobs.

And above all they must ensure that the minimum wage is not set too high. Anything above £3.50 an hour would bite hard, and the £4.50 an hour being proposed by the unions could result in a 14 per cent increase in the hotel and catering industry wages bill. Travel and tourism can be the engine for economic recovery, job creation and happiness. Only the cack-handed intervention of politicians can shackle it.

Every additional pound in tax means fewer visitors

## Tourists tell of horror holiday

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

MORE than 200 package holidaymakers are threatening to sue two tour operators after dozens fell ill and others complained of foul conditions in the Dominican Republic.

The holidaymakers, all from the North West of England, claimed that they found stags and cockroaches in their food, ants in their beds, a fouled swimming pool, birds pecking at meals and uncovered food, guests being served with stale leftovers and others mugged on a private beach.

The group had booked with two tour operators — Inspirations and Direct Holidays. On return, they immediately demanded refunds.

Patricia Doyle of Northwich, Cheshire, had treated a friend to a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the resort of Cabarete with Inspirations and was due to spend two weeks in a two-star hotel at a total cost of more than £1,000. "We were both ill for days," she says. "I have gathered the names and addresses of more than 200 people who feel the same. If I do not get a satisfactory response, we will put money in a pot and take the firm to court."

Other victims included Sidney and Dolores Mellor of Blackport, who were on honeymoon. They spent the first two weeks of their marriage living on bread and water. Francis Torrella, Inspirations marketing director, said none of the holidaymakers had written to complain formally, but an investigation would be held when they did. "We have had no problems with this resort before," he says. "Obviously, something went wrong this time. Sometimes, people expect the Dominican Republic to be like Antigua, but it isn't."

Hugh Boyle, the Direct Holidays managing director, says: "I have seen the accommodation and it seemed to be of good standard. There is a lot of poor accommodation and because there is a large influx of holidaymakers, some operators may be having to put people up in these places. We will look into any complaints made to us."



What is claimed to be the first portable shelter to protect babies from the harmful rays of the sun has been launched in time for the peak holiday season. The Pod, designed in Edinburgh by Protection Outdoors, costs £49.95. It has a gold coating which, say the

makers, screens out 97 per cent of all ultra-violet rays. Skin cancer mainly affects older people but babies are particularly vulnerable.

makers, screens out 97 per cent of all ultra-violet rays. Skin cancer mainly affects older people but babies are particularly vulnerable.

## Canal tax will hit family leisure trips

By NICK NUTTALL

CYCLISTS are to be charged £12.50 each to ride alongside one of Britain's best-known canals. And if the scheme — which would add £50 to the cost of a cycling holiday for the average family of four — is considered a success, it could be extended to thousands of miles of other towpaths throughout Britain.

Cyclists claim that the charge being piloted on the Kennet and Avon will force them onto more dangerous roads and discourage cycling to work and for leisure.

Alan Harlow, director of the Cyclists' Touring Club, says the £12.50, to be charged annually, is also at odds with the Government's strategy to boost the numbers of people who cycle in an attempt to reduce car usage and improve public health. He says: "Towpaths are ideal for meeting a national cy-

cling strategy because they often offer safe access between courtyards."

Tony Ambrose, a spokesman for Recycle Your Sunday, which is organising a series of protests, says: "This is the only safe and flat route for cyclists to the east of Bath. The towpath is especially popular with families because it is the only route in the area they can safely cycle with their children. If the charges are imposed, there will be nowhere that many families will be able to afford to take their children to learn the pleasures of cycling. This British Water-

ways Board move will tax cyclists off the canal."

Cyclists claim that anglers and boaters' complaints against cyclists have partly prompted the board's actions.

Mr Ambrose says: "Nobody is saying that the testosterone mountain bike brigade does not need controlling. But this is not the way to go about it."

Boat owners pay an annual fee of £300 plus mooring fees and anglers pay up to £15 for rod licences. The board spokesman says the money raised from cyclists would allow the board to put more staff on the canal to resolve conflicts between different user groups. Two rangers have been hired to enforce the scheme. The cycling fees would also go towards helping to maintain the towpath to make the Kennet and Avon Canal's 87 miles more pleasant for cyclists.



Ideal cycling conditions — and safe from cars

## A new line on mobile phones

By ALAN HAMILTON

MOBILE phones distress and depress me. The only safe escape from their relentless electronic tagging is on an aircraft. But I reluctantly confess that the instrument pressed into my hand to keep tabs on a domestic crisis proved its worth during last week's BA strike.

The world conspired to prevent my getting to Edinburgh. The BA shuttle was off the menu, but I managed to get the last available seat on the last British Midland flight of the day. Excellent news, except for the evil alliance of London Underground and a sudden monsoon downpour in central London.

I went, in good time, to Blackfriars Tube station, only to be confronted with a seething crowd and an operative refusing me entrance to the platform on the grounds of flooding, overcrowding, and the possible presence of serpents with tongues of fire. Time for a taxi to the nearest station on the probably unflooded Piccadilly Line. Fine, except that the rest of London also wanted a taxi.

A mad dash dropped me at Green Park with 45 minutes to go to final check-in. The Piccadilly journey was painfully slow. At five minutes before final check-in, I was only at Hammersmith. In desperation, I pulled from my pocket the foul device and phoned British Midland. "Do not," I commanded, "sell my seat to any passing standby layabout. I am on my way, battling through acts of God and the London Tube." The woman at the other end said she would log my call on the computer. I was left wondering whether this was decisive action.

I arrived, panting and glowing more than somewhat inside my city suit, at the check-in desk five minutes before

scheduled departure. The occupant took a stern view. "Your seat has been sold. We are entitled to do this because you are so late. What time do you call this to turn up for a flight?" I should say, in case the woman loses her job, that this exchange was conducted with impeccable politeness. I said I had phoned ahead. "Hmm," she said, "I'll have to check." Things did not look good. The desk milled with standby travellers looking as though they would kill for any available seat. She disappeared into the back office for what seemed an eternity. Take-off time came and went. Miraculously, she reappeared, with a huge smile and a boarding pass. "No trouble, Mr Hamilton," she said. "You are in seat 1D. We are boarding now."

What took place in the back office I do not know. I offered no bribes, threatened no recriminations, pulled no rank, and could show no frequent-flyer or other plastic tokens of flying privilege. It can only have been the phone call. All I know is that, when the flight landed in Edinburgh dead on time, it was a beautiful northern evening.



## A tax on the bed

THE government of New South Wales has shocked Sydney hoteliers and tourism chiefs in Australia by imposing a 10 per cent bed tax, Harvey Elliott writes.

Many fear that the new tax will stem the number of visitors to the state just as Australian sport is attracting a fast-growing international following and the country prepares for the Olympic Games in 2000.

John Morse, managing director of the Australian Tourist Commission, said: "Our real concern is that the tourism industry's success over the past few years may result

in it being seen as a cash cow for new taxes. The tax will most certainly put Sydney at a disadvantage."

Bob Carr, the Premier of New South Wales, claims that visitors would still go to Sydney whatever the cost and figures so far show that his optimism is justified.

Over the past 12 months the Australian Tourist Commission helpline has received more than 5,000 inquiries about golf alone. Well over 50 per cent of the calls are from Britain.

During the Games up to 200,000 visitors are expected to go to Australia.

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A clergyman was declared a vexatious litigant over his campaign on women priests..... **Page 5**

## French civil war

A barely civil war of words broke out between the two most powerful men in France..... **Page 15**

**.95 a year.**



# THE TIMES

2

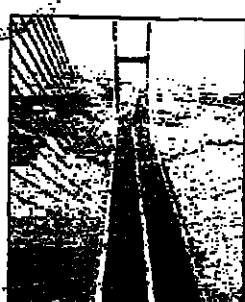
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JULY 17 1997

# Shares march to record levels

## FTSE 100 pushes closer to 5,000 mark as New York and Frankfurt reach highs

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE stock market is expected to break through the symbolic 5,000 point level tomorrow as traders continue to drive the market, ignoring concerns about rising interest rates and the strong pound.

The FTSE 100 closed up 64.9 points at 4,964.2 yesterday, having at one stage during the day touched 4,991.8.

The financial services sector accounted for almost half the rise as bid speculation and stock shortages continued to push prices higher. Pharmaceutical stocks also continued to attract buyers, as results from American competitors pointed towards rising drug sales.

International markets also moved to record highs. In New York the Dow Jones broke through the 8,000 level, while European stock markets received a boost from the dollar's renewed climb on the foreign exchanges. The Paris CAC-40 closed up 37.31 points at 2,988.01, while the Dax 30 in Frankfurt finished at a record high of 4,201.24.

Dealers said strong overseas interest and the high level of cash held by institutional funds was likely to continue to push the London market higher. But many economists are sceptical about whether the rise can be maintained, with further interest rate rises expected in the coming months.

Fears of another quarter-point rate rise next month resounded only slightly yesterday after the latest employment data showed a fall in average earnings growth, despite another large decline in the number of people out of work.

Average earnings rose by 4.25 per cent in June, compared with 4.5 per cent the previous month, as the City bonus round came to a close. The increase in service sector earnings also slowed slightly, falling a quarter point to 4.5 per cent.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment declined a further 36,500 to 1,600,800 or 5.7 per cent of the total workforce. The Office for National Statistics said the impact of the introduction of the Jobseekers' Allowance had now dropped out of the figures and that the trend fall in unemployment was running at 20,000 to 35,000 a month.

Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, said the latest data supported growing evidence that the labour market is not strong and that inflationary pressures are easing. But Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, said that the rise in vacancies and a further large fall in unemployment still pointed towards a tightening

A high pound and potentially higher interest rates should not make for an ever higher stock market. And what about the £70 billion cost to UK companies of the change to the taxation of dividend credits for pension funds? The market seems to have shrugged that off. Apparently, fund managers who manage the money behind the market think it is too high, yet the FTSE keeps rising. The stock market appears to be living in a world of its own, powered by bid-rumours and unrealistic expectations. Surely, there is a correction coming. But when? Commentary, page 27

Government interest payments on gilts jumped sharply as payments are now concentrated in June and December, while VAT receipts fell in comparison with last year because of the introduction of a quarterly system of payments for large companies. But the Government has kept well within its tough spending regime with total expenditure falling 1.3 per cent in the first three months.

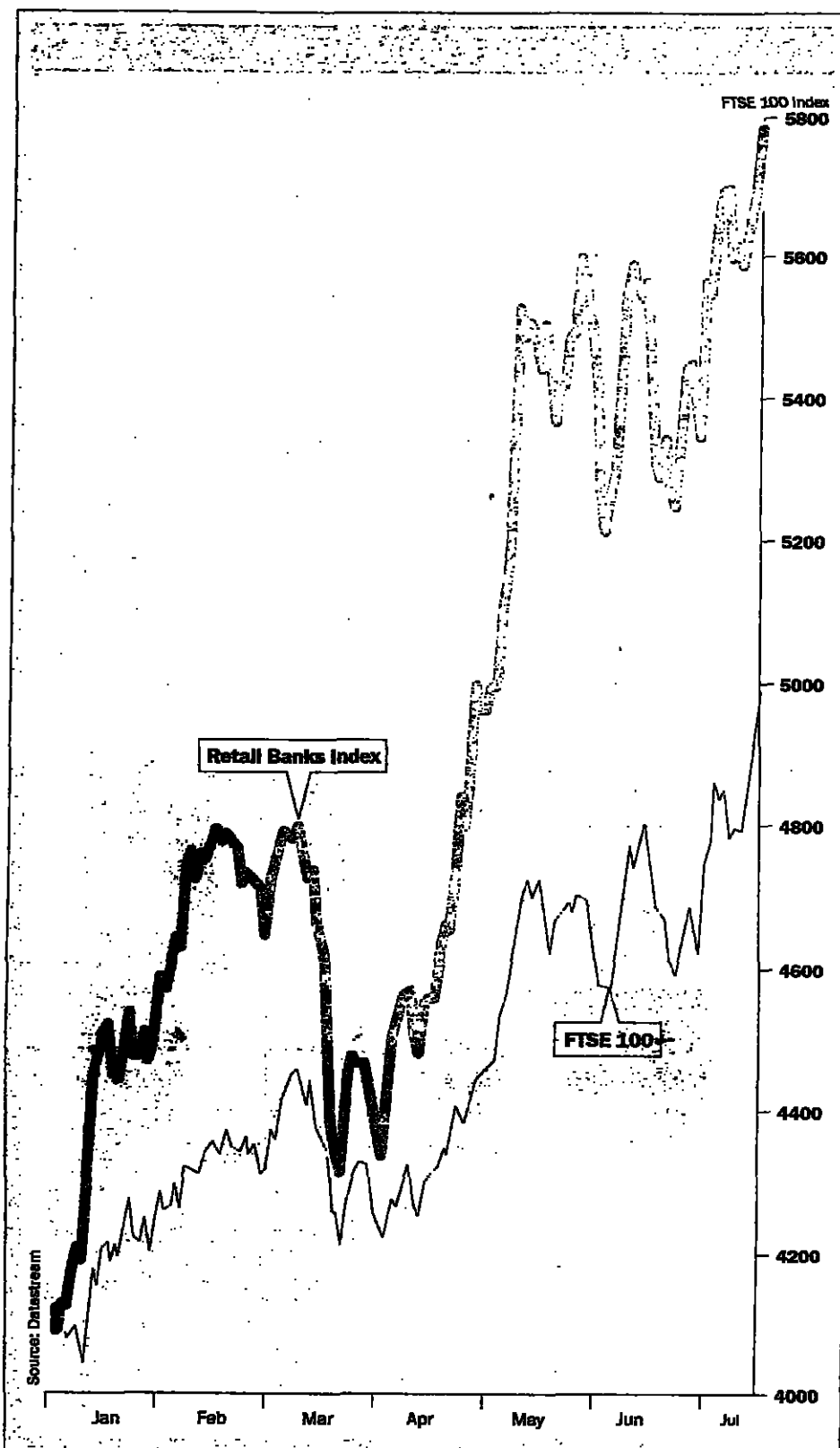
Separate data published yesterday showed that Government borrowing increased unexpectedly in June. The public sector borrowing requirement increased to £4.75 billion in June compared with £3.73 billion in May and £3.77 billion in June last year. The running total for the financial year so far is £9.6 billion, before privatisation proceeds, compared with £11.3 billion this time last year. Economists said the Government was on course to meet its full-year PSBR forecast of £10.9 billion.

labour market. The Bank of England has expressed concern over the inflationary impact of the strong labour market in recent months and the better than expected earnings figures may ease pressure for another interest rate rise next month.

The minutes for the June monetary policy committee meeting, the first since the Bank was granted operational independence in May, show the newly installed committee was unanimous in its decision to raise rates by a quarter point. The committee expressed concern over the high level of the pound but concluded domestic demand was sufficiently strong to warrant a further tightening in monetary policy.

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## Warring bankers drive up prices

By JON ASHWORTH AND MARTIN WALLER

THE extraordinary rise in share prices this year has been fuelled by frenzied speculation of takeovers by banks and insurance companies, although a bid of any significance has yet to emerge.

Takeover paranoia among banks and other financial institutions has resulted in full-scale "war games" aimed at simulating what happens when a hostile bidder swoops. Abbey National has been holding dry runs with advisers, amid speculation that various suitors, including NatWest Group and HSBC, owner of Midland Bank, have been casting the side-rule over its books. Moreover, leading PR bid advisers such as Brunswick and Citigate are said to be on 24-hour alert, while some corporate financiers are reported to have cancelled summer holidays.

Bid speculation has reached such a pitch that the only question seems to be whether the expected predators will pounce now or wait until the interim results season in a couple of weeks time. Abbey National, which is determined to safeguard its independence, says it has contingency plans for all manner of developments.

Fingers continue to point at NatWest, seen as vulnerable in the wake of the derivatives mispricing losses, and at Barclays of Zoete Wedd.

Halfax shares are trading at 18 times earnings, against a sector average of 12. The fear is that potential bidders will end up paying a huge premium at the top of the market.

BZW departure, page 26

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	4964.2 (+64.9)
Yield	3.35%
FTSE All Share	2216.03 (+26.22)
Nikkei	20358.74 (+260.23)
New York	8026.11 (+50.40)
Dow Jones	8026.11 (+50.40)
S&P Composite	934.77 (+9.01)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	101.72% (101.72%)
Yield	5.48% (5.48%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6.14% (6.14%)
Life long bill	114.7% (114.7%)

STERLING	
New York	1.6745* (1.6788)
London	1.6755 (1.6745)
DM	3.0116 (3.0145)
FF	101.720 (101.800)
Sfr	2.4847 (2.4733)
Yen	194.47 (193.39)
E index	105.2 (105.1)

DOLLAR	
London	1.7980* (1.7935)
DM	6.0890* (6.0506)
Sfr	1.4835* (1.4735)
Yen	116.23* (115.77)
S index	104.0 (103.8)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$18.40 (\$18.35)

GOLD	
London close	\$319.15 (\$319.75)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Departure

A senior BZW executive left the troubled investment bank to take the helm at Eagle Star, the insurer. The departure follows claims that uncertainty over the bank's future, as well as a move from the City of London to Canary Wharf, has prompted some analysts and traders to leave.

## Opposition

Moves to overcome the opposition of LVMH to the merger of Guinness and GrandMet were in disarray after the UK companies gave short shrift to the latest peace overtures. Page 27

## Brussels opposes Boeing merger

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE clash over the \$13.3 billion (about £7.9 billion) merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas came to a head last night when EU anti-trust experts opposed the creation of the world's largest aerospace company.

The European Commission is now expected to block the merger by threatening imposition of heavy fines after last-minute negotiations failed to yield sufficient concessions from Boeing. The merger is seen as a threat to Airbus, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace.

Governments in Bonn, Paris and Washington are supporting their respective aerospace industries and a trade war is looming. Jacques Chirac, the French president, said: "We strongly support the Commission. [The merger] could be extremely dangerous

for Europeans." The British Government has taken a back seat in the dispute.

Günter Rexrodt, the German economics minister, said that Boeing had offered to report regularly to the EU on any cross-subsidies from McDonnell-Douglas's military business to its own civilian operations but this, and other commitments, were not enough to win EU approval.

Al Gore, the US Vice-President, has given warning that the Clinton administration would take any appropriate action to prevent the Commission torpedoing the merger. The Commission is set to impose fines of up to 10 per cent of turnover on Boeing, and seize new Boeing planes delivered to Europe. The US Federal Trade Commission approved the merger without conditions on July 1.

## CBI urges Blair to delay euro

LEADERS of the Confederation of British Industry will today tell Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, that CBI members want Britain to refrain from joining Europe's single currency in the early stages (Philip Bassett writes).

Sir Colin Marshall, the CBI president, and Adair Turner, director-general, will tell Mr Blair that although business is broadly in favour of a single currency, Britain must wait to see if monetary union is effective before taking part.

A member of the CBI's governing council said: "With sterling appreciating by 23 per cent over the past year, that's a very clear indication that now would not be the right time to enter. The exchange rate position is far too unstable to lock the pound into a single currency now."

## BT pledges to proceed with MCI merger

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday pledged to complete its £12 billion merger with MCI in the face of mounting losses in the American phone company's local business, but left open the door to renegotiate the price.

BT said that no decision to reduce the price would be taken until it had completed an extensive review, which is to begin immediately, of MCI's multibillion dollar push into the local market in the US.

The difficulties in penetrating this newly deregulated market triggered a surprise profits warning from MCI last week, putting pressure on BT to defend the acquisition and review the purchase price.

Sir Iain Vallance, the BT

chairman who is to become co-chairman of the merged company, called Concert, said: "We will take time to look thoroughly to make sense of the US market. Only after we've done that would we consider renegotiations."

Alleged attempts by BT to seek the resignations of two MCI senior executives in the wake of the profits warning appear to have failed.

Gerald Taylor, MCI's chief executive and a non-executive director of BT, said that Tim Price, president, and Douglas Maine, chief financial officer, had his support and would not be leaving.

Mr Taylor said MCI had "absolutely" every intention of completing the merger on the terms agreed last November.

The commitment to go ahead came as shareholders attending BT's annual meeting, its first in Scotland and its last before the creation of Concert, accused BT of mismanagement for its apparent failure to monitor MCI's expansion into the local market.

Jon Meyer, from Loanhead, Scotland, one of 930 shareholders at the meeting, asked Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, if he had been "suckered" by MCI. "Should we call for your resignation or a vote of confidence in your job?"

Sir Peter denied that he had become sloppy. "We never said this was going to be easy... The US local market is at a different stage of development than previously envisaged."

Commentary, page 29

## Bus chief guilty of £1m bribe

By ADAM JONES

DAWSON WILLIAMS, the former chairman of British Bus, was found guilty yesterday of bribing a bank manager with £1 million when the privatised transport company hit financial difficulties.

Mr Williams, who received £9.4 million in 1994 when he sold part of his holding in British Bus, was convicted of conspiracy to corrupt, by a unanimous jury verdict at the Old Bailey in London.

Ian Harvey, the First National Bank of Boston executive who ran British Bus's account, was found guilty of the same charge, relating to a period between January 1992 and August 1994. The two men will be sentenced on September 5.

Mr Williams, 59, of Ringwood, Hampshire, bribed Mr Harvey, 40, of Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, after Robson Rhodes, British Bus's auditors, requested proof that the company could afford its debts before the 1992-93 accounts were signed off.

The company, which ran UK-wide bus services, had been unable to raise money by selling town centre bus stations because of the early-1990s property slump. Mr Harvey wrote letters pledging the bank's "open-ended" support without informing his head office. British Bus eventually traded out of its difficulties and the bank made a profit on the shares.

For that, Mr Harvey only received £600,000, which was paid after Mr

Williams received the £9.4 million when two venture capitalists bought British Bus in mid-1994. The remainder was left offshore as part of a tax scheme. Mr Harvey spent £400,000 of the money on a house in Little Hadham.

The two men had been charged in July 1996 after an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and the City of London Police. The SFO has applied for £999,999 to be confiscated from Mr Harvey. The pair may also have to pay costs of £86,000. Both are on bail, having had their passports confiscated.

British Bus is now owned by Cowie, which said that the court decision would have no effect on its operations.

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## Euromoney in £84m Disney deal

Euromoney Publications, the international business magazine group, has agreed to buy the Institutional Investor titles from The Walt Disney Company for \$142 million (£84 million) — its largest ever acquisition.

Institutional Investor, which publishes 24 newsletters as well as its flagship magazine, last year returned profits of £4 million on sales of £44 million — a margin of 9 per cent against Euromoney's 24 per cent.

Euromoney said it would be looking at means of stripping costs from the magazine company, which employs 500 staff worldwide, but said it was too early to decide whether jobs will be lost. The shares were unchanged at £15.47.

## Software pact

Oxford Molecular, the drug design software company, has entered into a new collaboration with Glaxo Wellcome to improve DIVA, their jointly developed system for analysing chemical and biological data.

# BZW executive quits to lead Eagle Star

By Adam Jones

ONE of the leading executives at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the troubled investment banking arm of Barclays, resigned yesterday to take the helm at Eagle Star, the insurer.

The departure of Patrick O'Sullivan, 48, the chief operating officer, follows uncertainty over the bank's future, as well as a move from the City of London to Canary Wharf that has been unpopular with some staff. He is the latest in a flood of departures since Bill Harrison joined last year from Flemings to succeed David Bland, who died of a heart attack.

The market has been awash with rumours about the future of BZW. Among the options suggested have been a flotation of the business and a merger with NatWest Markets, the investment banking arm of NatWest Group.

NatWest Markets is also under a cloud, with Derek Wanless, NatWest's chief executive, temporarily in charge after the resignation of NatWest Markets' boss, Martin Owen, after its options losses earlier this year. NatWest said it would reveal



Patrick O'Sullivan is the latest of many to leave BZW

its future plans for NatWest Markets on August 5 with its half-year figures.

The move also renewed expectations that BAT Industries, the owner of Eagle Star, is to embark on a significant restructuring of its financial

services division, which could involve a £12 billion flotation of the business, which also includes Allied Dunbar, the life insurer.

There have been rumours of a merger between Eagle Star and Commercial Union's UK

interests and of a bid for Norwich Union by BAT.

Eagle Star said yesterday that it was leaving its options open. However, Lord Cairns, BAT's chairman, strongly hinted at a demerger at BAT's annual shareholders' meeting in May.

Mr O'Sullivan joined the Barclays subsidiary in 1994 as head of bank finance. He previously worked for Arthur Andersen, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Financial Guaranty Insurance Company, a subsidiary of General Electric.

As chief operating officer, he chaired BZW's operating committee. He will join Eagle Star in September.

Sandy Letch, chief executive of British American Financial Services (BAFS), said yesterday the appointment should not be taken as a sign that a flotation or merger, or both, is definitely planned.

Mr O'Sullivan commented: "Sandy's goals and ambitions for BAFS are very attractive. I'm more than delighted."

He said insurance was experiencing the same trends in areas such as globalisation and risk management as retail and investment banking.

## BAe seeks unlimited right to continue arms sales

By Oliver August

BRITISH Aerospace held talks at the Foreign Office yesterday to lobby the Government against restricting arms exports to countries with doubtful human rights records.

Mike Turner, a BAe executive director, met Derek Fatchett, the minister responsible for Asia and the Middle East, to discuss new export licences. Labour has pledged to stop arms exports to regimes known for their unethical conduct. A review of the export policy is expected by the end of this month.

BAe is a major arms supplier to the Indonesian armed forces. Peace protesters have alleged that BAe's Hawk training aircraft have been used to attack the East Timorese population. BAe annual meetings have been disrupted by protesters for several years.

A BAe spokesman said: "Mike Turner went to the Foreign Office to discuss a number of topics. Export licences was one of them."

Civil servants at the Foreign Office have drawn up a list of measures that Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, could implement to restrict arms exports. It is believed he could force BAe to cancel some contracts or prevent it from negotiating contract extensions.

Analysts believe that the policy review could pose a serious threat to BAe profits. Last month IBCA, the ratings agency, raised BAe's long-term rating, citing defence exports as a reason. IBCA said: "The defence operations... are the all-important cash and profit generators of the group, representing 65 per cent of BAe's all-time high order book of £19 billion."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "The meeting was held at British Aerospace's request. It was a two-way conversation but more BAe's minister than the other way around."

## MMC delays report on Freemans sale

SEARS and Littlewoods must wait an extra two months to find out whether the repeatedly delayed sale of Sears' Freemans catalogue business to the Liverpool-based retail-pools group can go ahead. A report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was scheduled for delivery to the DTI on Monday. The delay to September 22 means that Sears' long-suffering shareholders are unlikely to receive their 24p per share special dividend until next year. It had been expected in December. The news sent Sears' shares down 2½p to 62½p, not far above their five-year low of 58p in 1993. The DTI said that the MMC had requested the extended deadline because of the complexity of the issues raised by the merger. Sears and Littlewoods, which have said they believe that the matter should not have needed a referral, remained confident yesterday that the deal would be allowed.

## Wray buys pizza slice

NIGEL WRAY, the entrepreneur behind the Burford property group, is buying a slice of Domino's Pizza, the pizza delivery firm, for up to £2.75 million. Mr Wray, whose interests include Saracens Rugby Club and Nottingham Forest Football Club, is buying up to 20 per cent of Domino's Pizza Group, which holds the UK franchise for the US pizza company. The money will help to expand the company from its current total of 140 stores, paving the way for an eventual stock market flotation.

## Allied Textile seeks deal

ALLIED TEXTILE remains on the lookout for acquisitions both at home and abroad but has yet to find exactly what it wants, the company said yesterday. It reported an 8.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.95 million for the six months to March 31. The advance was achieved in spite of the rise of sterling affecting sales abroad, which account for 53 per cent of the company's revenues. Earnings per share were 6.6p, up from 6.1p, and the interim dividend has been lifted from 2.6p to 2.75p.

## Microgen at 2-year low

SHARES of Microgen Holdings fell to a two-year low as the struggling microfilm producer gave warning that the strong pound and difficult market conditions had wiped out any chances of growth this year. Pre-tax profits were £4.21 million (£4.87 million) at the half-way stage, it said, and would be "significantly" below the expected £9 million by the year end. Analysts wrote down forecasts to £7 million, as the shares fell 31p to 118½p. Earnings were 6.9p (8p) a share for the six months to April 30, but the interim dividend stays at 2.4p.

## First Technology grows

FIRST Technology, the crash-test dummy and fuel valve company, beat City forecasts with pre-tax profits of £9.23 million (£7.27 million) in the year to April 30. Renault and Fiat, the main customers for its emergency fuel cut-off valve, sold thousands of new cars through government schemes encouraging owners of ten-year-old cars to trade them in. The strength of sterling wiped £300,000 from profits, leaving earnings at 38.1p (30.1p) a share. A 6.6p final dividend, due October 13, makes the total 10.8p (8.5p).

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.38	2.20
Austria Sch	22.18	20.50
Belgium Fr	55.31	60.35
Canada \$	2.426	2.298
Cyprus Cyp£	0.926	0.855
Denmark Kr	12.06	11.17
Finland Mk	9.43	8.65
France Fr	10.63	9.85
Germany Dm	3.17	2.83
Greece Dr	489	460
Hong Kong \$	13.77	12.57
Iceland	121	107
Ireland P	1.17	1.06
Israel Shk	8.26	8.61
Italy Lire	2097	2890
Japan Yen	209.63	182.10
Malta	0.680	0.631
Netherlands Gld	3.570	3.294
New Zealand \$	2.70	2.46
Norway Kr	13.11	12.17
Portugal Esc	316.03	284.00
S Africa Rd	8.35	7.30
Spain Ptas	204.78	246.00
Sweden Kr	13.63	12.61
Switzerland Fr	2.64	2.42
Turkey Lira	2894.14	2493.36
USA \$	1.781	1.638

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Bulmer to double marketing spend

By Dominic Walsh

HP BULMER, the UK's biggest cidemaker, with Strongbow, Woodpecker and White Lightning, is almost doubling its marketing spend to £8 million this year.

The move follows a rise of almost 10 per cent in full-year profits and is expected to wipe out any profits growth this financial year.

Bulmer's £8 million spend is similar to Matthew Clark's investment after its savaging by the alcopops sector. Their combined spend of more than £16 million compares to £6 million last year, £4.7 million of it Bulmer's.

John Rudgard, chief executive, said the main target would be the 18 to 24 age group, responsible for 70 per cent of cider consumption but has seen a slight decline in the past three years. In the year to April 25, Bulmer profits before tax and exceptional were up 9.2 per cent, to £30.1 million, on turnover up 20 per cent at £310.5 million.

Bulmer lifted market share to 54.5 per cent, its highest for more than 30 years. A 9.62p final dividend, due September 15, makes 14.52p, up 10 per cent. Earnings per share before exceptional rose to 36.19p.

## Strong product demand lifts Pru

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

STRONG demand for life and pensions products in the UK helped to boost new business figures from Prudential.

Prudential yesterday reported growth of 23 per cent in single premium life, pension and investment products to £3.6 billion and growth of 20 per cent to £294 million in regular premium sales in the first six months of 1997.

The figures were higher than had been forecast. But separate figures from Legal & General were slightly below market expect-

tations. At L&G, new UK equivalent premium income rose 24 per cent to £175 million while worldwide new equivalent premium income was £215 million, an increase of 16 per cent on the comparable period last year.

In the UK, single premium sales by the Prudential grew 15 per cent to £1.8 billion and regular premiums increased 16 per cent to £182 million.

Sales of the Prudential Bond increased 47 per cent to £399 million. It is now Prudential UK's best selling product.

Tempus, page 28

Difficult customer, page 29

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# BT phone home, say investors



## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

**S**o Sir Iain Vallance is pressing ahead with the MCI merger, though he might ask for a price cut. Alternatively, investors might requisition an EGM and propose the deal is scrapped unless the terms are changed. This might save BT the \$150 million penalty that its management allowed MCI to insert into the agreement. Sir Iain needs to deliver a good result from the MCI talks. MCI's surprise profits warning raised the question: how much did BT know and when did it know it? If BT was genuinely surprised last week that MCI's losses, in penetrating the local phone market, would double this year to \$800 million, then its senior executives should be taken to task for sloppy management. If it was not surprised, then it should not have been so euphoric about the deal at April's extraordinary meeting, when it sought and obtained approval to proceed with the £12 billion takeover.

BT should have been well aware of MCI's difficulties in cracking the local market long before last week. BT has owned 20 per cent of MCI since 1993 and the top executives of both companies sit on each other's boards. Since last November, when BT agreed to buy MCI, this relationship has become even closer with the two hatching plans to integrate their operations.

Admittedly Clinton's 1996 Telecommunications Act has been an unmitigated disaster. The Act, promoted as the most wide ranging reform of the phone market since the Depression, was supposed to eliminate remaining trade barriers, allowing local, long distance and cable companies to compete in each other's markets. On paper, it was a great achievement. Local monopolies are alive and well and will do anything legal to keep it that way.

But the Act's shortcomings were suspected last year and apparent before April (not least to those who read this column). BT either chose to ignore the warning signs or did not understand their significance. The most charitable reading possible is that BT took its eye off the ball.

BT says it has now passed the point of no return. It has no choice but to go ahead with the takeover, which limits its room for manoeuvre when renegotiating the price. Shareholders, who bailed out in droves last week on the profits warning, have every right to be wary. How many

more surprises are in store? Has BT, as one shareholder asked yesterday, been "suckered" by its friends at MCI?

BT's efforts to restore confidence did not succeed yesterday. It will now have to go out of its way to keep investors informed about the merger every step of the way. One more shock announcement could kill the deal.

### An index in a world of its own

In a case you have not been paying attention to — here are the deals that are supposed to be happening in the financial services sector. The Pru is buying NatWest or maybe Abbey National, the Halifax or the Woolwich. HSBC is buying NatWest, Abbey National, Royal Bank of Scotland or the Halifax. Barclays

are being buoyed by technical factors and bid premiums.

If the market is right and there is about to be a massive shake-up in the retail financial services industry, this will create widespread job losses and add to the country's economic woes. And will it do much for the efficient provision of financial services? Is there a great volume of Abbey Life products actually sold through the Lloyds TSB network? And Lloyds is supposed to be the most efficient operator in the sector.

A high pound and potentially higher interest rates should not make for an ever higher stock market. And what about the £70 billion cost to UK companies of the change to the taxation of dividend credits for pension funds. The market seems to have shrugged that off. Apparently all the fund managers, who actually

manage the money behind the market, think it is too high, yet the FTSE keeps on rising. The stock market appears to be living in a world of its own, powered by bid rumours and unrealistic expectations. Surely there is a correction coming. But when?

### Time for glasnost at the Old Lady

Two months and two interest rate rises have passed since the Bank of England gained operational independence. But it was only yesterday, with the publication of the June 6 monetary policy committee minutes, that the outside world could see the new system in action. Gone are the sharp differences that marked the "Ken and Eddie" show in favour of a bland discussion of the state of the economy, with the committee speaking at all times in a single voice.

There is something slightly unreal about these minutes. They indicate about as much dissent as the average Politburo meeting, despite the Bank admit-

ting a serious "policy dilemma" because of the high level of the pound. It is hard to believe that Eddie George and Professor William Butler, who expressed concern about the balance of the economy just before joining the committee, are united over this problem. But judging from these minutes, the Bank seems to want to stick to its policy of shutting its eyes and hoping the problem will go away. It hasn't.

Sterling has risen a further 8 per cent against the mark since this meeting. Two fundamental causes of the appreciation — EMU turmoil and the large interest rate differential between the UK and other major economies — also suggest the pound is set to stay strong well into next year. Time for glasnost on Threadneedle Street.

### Oh no Arnault

NO ONE seriously believes that Burger King and Guinness brewing will be part of GMG Brands in a decade's time. So Bernard Arnault plans to throw the drinks part of his LVMH into melting pot makes sense. What is currently holding up the resolution of this issue is the price that M. Arnault wants for including Moët Hennessy in the equation and the determination of George Bull and Tony Greener to present it as their deal.

## Forbes in £84m cash bid for UK insurer

By Jon Ashworth

THE Forbes Group, South Africa's biggest insurance group, is making an agreed £84 million offer for Nelson Hurst, the international insurance broker based in London.

The deal provides Forbes with a springboard for overseas expansion. Nelson Hurst has an extensive network in Asia and Latin America. The cash offer values each Nelson Hurst at £85p, a premium of 43 per cent to the closing middle market price of £129p on Tuesday.

The companies already have a close trading relationship and share seats on each other's boards. Paul Heinebaum, group managing director of Forbes, said that the link provided an entrée to the emerging markets in Latin America and Asia where the rise of an affluent middle class has sparked growing demand for endowments and other financial assurance products.

Forbes owns 9.94 per cent of Nelson Hurst shares, and has irrevocable undertakings over a further 11.7 per cent of the shares. If the bid succeeds, Nelson Hurst does not intend to pay an interim dividend in the six months to end-time. David Woodward and John Percy-Davis will continue in their current roles as chairman and chief executive of Nelson Hurst for at least the next three years.

## Arnault plan for single drinks giant dismissed

By Dominic Walsh

MOVES to overcome the opposition of Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, to the proposed £24 billion merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan were in disarray last night after the UK companies gave short notice to his latest overtures.

LVMH, which is the largest shareholder in both British companies, yesterday issued a formal proposal that its own Moët Hennessy drinks business be combined with those of GrandMet and Guinness to create a single drinks giant to be listed in London and Paris.

However, George Bull, chairman of GrandMet, and Tony Greener, his Guinness counterpart, dismissed the plan as "a complicated and costly break-up of GrandMet and Guinness in order to leverage LVMH into a dominant position in what would already be the world's leading spirits and wine company".

While agreeing to a full analysis of the scheme, they dismissed it as giving M. Arnault "back-door control without paying a premium". They added: "It is hard to see how this would be in the interests of our other shareholders."

M. Arnault's proposal envisages the creation of three further separately quoted companies to hold Guinness and GrandMet's other busi-

nesses: Pillsbury food, Burger King and Guinness Brewing. Under the suggested demerger, LVMH would exchange its 66 per cent shareholding in Moët Hennessy, together with its 14.2 per cent stake in Guinness and 6.4 per cent of GrandMet, for a holding of about 35 per cent in the new quoted drinks company. In addition, shareholders would receive the same 60p-a-share payout promised in the proposed merger of Guinness and GrandMet into GMG Brands.

However, no reference was made to the alternative option discussed on Tuesday that Moët Hennessy could be split up, with LVMH retaining Moët champagne and GMG acquiring Hennessy.

Analysts admitted there was some merit in having demerged companies with a sharper focus, but questioned the price that Mr Arnault was demanding. A spokesman for GMG said the details would be examined carefully over the next few days and a formal response drawn up, probably next week. He admitted it was difficult to see a resolution, but added: "Things haven't broken down completely."

A source close to M. Arnault described the GMG response as "not very constructive".

Commentary, this page



Peter Williams, left, chief executive of David S Smith, and David Butfield saw pre-tax profits fall to £96 million

## Paper group warns of painful cuts

By Fraser Nelson

DAVID S SMITH, the paper, packaging and office supplies group, gave warning it will suffer a "painful" process of cost reduction if the pound remains at its current highs.

The company, which generates a third of its business from overseas, said it is relying on a recovery in the French and German economies to return to growth next year. Pre-tax profits fell 23 per cent to £96 million in the year to May 3, on sales that rose 4.5 per cent to £1.18 billion. David Butfield, finance director, said exchange rates had effectively made the company's paper 25 per cent more expensive in key overseas markets.

"All it would take is a 3 per cent recovery in the European markets for the sentiment to change," he said. Earnings fell to 23.1p (30.3p) a share, after an increased dividend of 8p. A final 7.5p is due on October 1.

## Heavy fall in Medeva shares

SHARES in Medeva, the pharmaceuticals company, fell heavily yesterday as it revealed a collapse in sales of Isonamin, the slimming drug previously promoted as one of its most promising new products (Paul Durman writes).

First-half sales of Isonamin dropped to £7 million, a third of the level achieved in the second-half of last year. Medeva blamed £3 million of the fall on distributors running down excess stocks. However, Isonamin sales have also been hit by health fears. Medeva accepts that "a recovery in sales in the short term seems unlikely".

The shares fell 34.5p to a low this year of 22p, cutting £123 million from the company's stock market value. This was in spite of a 35 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £45.6 million, on sales 23 per cent ahead at £159 million. The company will pay its interim dividend, increased by 15 per cent to 1.9p, as a foreign income dividend.

Tempus, page 28

## Petroleum syndicate seeks £167m

By Carl Mortished

BRITISH-BORNEO Petroleum Syndicate is raising £167 million from its shareholders to help to fund a £500 million exploration and development programme in the Gulf of Mexico to extend over the next three to four years.

The 2-for-9 rights issue, priced at £12 per share, comes after a £54 million cash call early last year.

British-Borneo yesterday announced an asset swap with Conoco. The UK company is acquiring a half share in three Gulf of Mexico blocks that contain the King Kong gasfield in exchange for exploration acreage and some cash. The total value of the exploration acreage and cash is less than 5 per cent of British-Borneo's net assets, worth between £7 million and £8 million.

British-Borneo shares fell 50p to £13.62 and is forecasting a dividend for the year of 8.25p.

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## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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## Hands off our private pensions



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

A generation ago, money-purchase pensions that relied wholly on investment returns had a terrible reputation. Typically they had been invested for safety in government gilt-edged stock, most of whose value had been lost to inflation and higher interest rates. Lots of people on modest incomes who had put in small sums for decades discovered that they had little to show for it. They had to rely on the State.

Postwar generations would not fall into the same trap. To public acclaim, such inflexible poor people's pensions died out. Soon, it seems, they are going to be resurrected for all. This week's attempt by the Director-General of Fair Trading to lay down a rigid pattern for private pensions exemplifies the 1990s compulsion to muck about with the serious business of providing for retirement.

First came the scare about a demographic timebomb, later exposed as no more than a pretext for the Tory Government to cut state pension provision even further. With state provision falling and

the misconceived state earnings-related scheme headed for history, the hunt was on for low-cost invested pension plans for the large minority of lower earners and part-timers who had no occupational pensions at all.

Expensive tailor-made personal pensions, aggressively mis-sold to people who could not afford them, put many off private pensions for life. Sir John Anson's Retirement Income Inquiry, sponsored by the National Association of Pension Funds, wanted a compulsory national second-tier pension fund between the state pension and voluntary occupational funds. Others want to resuscitate industry-wide occupational schemes.

Under Peter Lilley, the Department of Social Security calculated that any money-purchase replacement for Serps would cost too much for the relatively small individual sums likely to be invest-

ed in it. So Mr Lilley proposed privatising the whole state pension to make the sums add up, with a fallback state guarantee. This required new generations to give up tax relief on contributions, undermining occupational schemes.

Labour toyed with various schemes in opposition, then promised an inquiry, due to be announced today. Gordon Brown's Budget meddling has already made its task far harder.

His dividend grab cut investment returns, making it nigh on impossible to design a cost-effective Serps replacement. By cutting the tax advantage of pensions as a savings vehicle, and showing this could happen again, it has undermined public faith even more. More employers will now close final-salary schemes. In an unstable society, this makes sense in theory, except that, in practice, final salary schemes usually still

deliver better pensions for long-standing employees than lower-cost defined contribution schemes.

The OFT appears to think that both kinds of scheme fleece the public. This will not help to rebuild confidence. Its solution is to devise a new template for pensions that will make investment returns the same and focus consumer choice on cost. A consumer watchdog has

no business designing new financial services products. To do so undermines its credibility as fatally as the Consumers' Association launching its Which? credit card.

The competition authority has come up with the fallacious argument that companies always use to justify monopoly. Why waste money duplicating different models and spending vast sums marketing in competition with rivals?

The OFT utility pension relies on puerile top-down academic analysis. Most pension funds fail to beat the average investment performance. Therefore, money spent on trying to do so is wasted and most fund members would be better off without any investment management. The research paper on which this depends, relying on efficient market theory, says that any claimed skill at timing switches between securities and cash "relies on the assumption that

professional managers possess insider information (potentially illegally obtained)".

On such intellectual foundations, OFT experts recommend a standard minimum cost pension scheme that tracks the share index, investing proportionately in the stocks that make up it up. Such index funds often give good value for money. That is why competition has made tracker funds popular. But picking stocks is only one aspect of investment management. Allocating funds between UK shares, gilt-edged, foreign equities, corporate bonds and cash is as important.

Any fund that sets today's investment ideas in stone for 40 years ahead is asking to be as big a disaster as the old funds that invested only in gilt-edged. In 15 years time, bonds may be a better investment than equities. And it would be foolish to restrict any-

thing beyond a low-grade basic scheme to UK investment, even if you could under EU law.

Index funds need to be a minority sport. If the majority of pension money were invested that way, the index would soon become hopelessly distorted and manipulated. Without flexibility, ethical investment choices, smaller stocks and the venture capital industry would wither away as their main source of capital dried up. And specifying a tracker fund begs the question of which index to track: the FTSE 100 top shares, some world index of blue chips or an "all-share" index that still covers only a minority of stocks.

The Government inquiry should realise what damage is done by tinkering. Today's young people face compulsory savings in an inflexible vehicle whose chief virtue is tax relief. Once their savings have been seized, they can safely bet that successive Chancellors will remove the relief. Unless the Government is careful, ordinary people will become as keen to avoid pensions as taxes.

## Difficult customer reaches out to arms of Western capitalism

Oliver August looks at the way Britain's links with Saudi Arabia are growing

If one placed all British trading partners in one classroom, Saudi Arabia would stand out as a highly gifted but difficult pupil. The desert state has been one of the UK's most lucrative export destinations over the past decade. But at times it has also been one of British industry's most awkward clients.

The £20 billion al-Yamamah arms-for-oil deal struck by Margaret Thatcher in the mid-1980s is still the largest ever UK export agreement. Millions have flown into Treasury coffers and hundreds of British Aerospace jobs have been created with every Tornado aircraft flown to a desert base.

Many British businessmen, however, feel reminded of Communist Eastern Europe when they go to Riyadh. Secrecy is intense, the bureaucracy is unrelenting, and almost all business is conducted directly through the State and influenced by its ideology. It is with some surprise, therefore, that exporters greeted yesterday's Confederation of British Industry forum to discuss Saudi trade which included a host of high-profile Saudi figures — and they all arrived in lounge suits rather than white robes and traditional head dress.

Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, is reaching out to Western capitalism. The royal family around the ailing King Fahd is visibly pleased with its close co-operation with UK companies and now wants to invite in more. Last year alone, British exports to the country grew by 50 per cent to £2.5 billion. Proudly, the Saudis tell their new business partners about their 1 per cent inflation rate in what has become an economic virtuosity test.

Chairing the forum, His



Sales of the Tornado aircraft are expected to fizzle out but BAE hopes to persuade the Saudis to buy the Eurofighter

Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Faisal bin Turki said: "We welcome as much contact as possible. In the future, there will be more opportunities to participate."

The same note was struck by Lord Clinton-Davis, the Trade Minister, who said: "Saudi Arabia is a very important market for us. Growth looks set to continue this year. We want to maximise exports through the al-Yamamah programme. Saudi Arabia is not the strange land of popular perceptions. The Department of Trade and Industry has just embarked on a two-year export promotion."

Prince Abdullah had said: "The Saudis are quite conservative. We only discovered the 20th century in the 1950s." Lord Clinton-Davis retorted: "I hope you are referring to small conservatism, as you did congratulate me on Labour's victory." Relations are not always so easy and good-humoured.

The al-Yamamah deal is a government-to-government programme. This has many advantages, the Saudis are quick to point out. Incentives include interest-free loans, exemption from duty, a ten-year tax holiday and no restrictions on the repatriation of funds.

But this list is also a good pointer to the problems companies are likely to encounter in the country. The notoriously difficult business conditions may be tackled with the help of the Saudis or not at all. For a UK chief executive, there is no such thing as being in charge of Saudi operations.

To help UK companies, BAE and the Ministry of Defence operate a trade development agency called the British Offset Office. They are using their local expertise and contacts developed over the past decade to open the door for the rest of British industry. Banks, investors and consultants are on

hand to give confidential guidance on how to deal with the Saudis. Companies such as Shell, Glaxo, Tate & Lyle and BP have beneficiaries.

BAE has also been involved in the programme as an underwriter for other UK companies. Steve Mogford, managing director of the systems and services division, said: "This is a new scheme we are putting in place under the al-Yamamah programme. BAE will guarantee a Saudi loan to a fellow company that is investing in the kingdom. The maximum value of the loan is £6.25 million."

But there are further complications for British exporters. To join the programme, companies have to fulfil certain criteria. Projects are to be joint ventures with Saudi companies. They have to add up to an investment of at least £10

million. And most importantly, technological skills and knowledge have to be transferred to the local community. Consequently, BAE alone employs 1,500 Saudis to assemble aircraft instead of doing so in Warton, Lancashire.

The Saudi employees are assisted by 3,500 British engineers, accountants and pilots permanently stationed around the Arabian peninsula. BAE seems to find it difficult to employ enough UK personnel to man the desert outposts. It continues to advertise for military recruits in the RAF newsletter.

A BAE recruitment document obtained by *The Times* paints a hilariously rosy picture of the conditions in the kingdom. It says: "Even though Saudi Arabia does not have a tradition of public entertainment facilities in the cities, you will never be short of ways to spend your leisure time. Obviously the

choice of recreational activity varies according to where you are based."

The text is accompanied by pictures of the stony desert. "For the more energetic types, competitive pursuits like road running and cycling are catered for as is golf." The golf state, which is regularly criticised by human rights organisations, is also being described as "a model of stability".

Even BAE cannot gloss over some of the problems that employees can expect. The RAF men are told: "Saudi Arabia remains a deeply religious country at the heart of the Islamic faith and Saudi Arabian nationals place a high value on preserving their culture and traditions. The consumption of alcohol and pork products are both forbidden and visitors, whatever their nationality, can expect the law to be rigorously applied."

The RAF men may have heard of the two British nurses in a Saudi jail and possibly facing a death sentence. Andrew Green, the Ambassador to Riyadh, said: "There are 30,000 UK citizens working in Saudi Arabia. Only two or three are in jail at any one time. Some are very awkward cases but there are only one or two of them."

The question on most Saudi watchers' minds at the moment is whether the heart of the al-Yamamah deal, the sale of military aircraft, will maintain its momentum. This would give an enormous boost to all UK exports to the country. Barnaby Wiener, analyst at Merrill Lynch, wrote in his latest BAE report: "The second phase of al-Yamamah was initiated in 1993 with the order for 48 further Tornados. The current order backlog is around £5.5 billion, nearly half the total defence order book."

The export of Tornados will fizzle out next year. BAE's ground support is to continue, but earnings will decline. Now BAE cannot wait to sell the Saudis its latest toy, the Eurofighter, under another al-Yamamah style deal.

Ever the difficult customer, the Saudis have adopted Mrs Thatcher's successor's motto: wait and see.

## Succession has its fashions

Martin Waller says brands can survive the loss of a figurehead

There is a polite fiction about brand names. The same fiction surrounds celebrity chefs and celebrity hairdressers. No one believes that Gary Rhodes personally slices each aubergine, even if he is billed as the chef in his restaurants; no one expects Pierre Cardin to have personally wielded the scissors on every suit that sells for £300 at the local department store.

But the existence of the brand figurehead matters in high fashion, and his or her sudden death can cause a hiatus that can break the company. The shock shooting of Gianni Versace in Miami leaves a gap at the top of the fashion house that will, once the family grieving is over, have to be filled.

Donatella, Gianni's sister, is seen as the natural successor — she already designs much of the range on sale at the company's 100 shops around the world even if her brother was in charge of the *haute couture* on the catwalk. Other fashion houses have been less fortunate. The normal pattern has been to import a hot-shot designer from outside, or promote one conveniently already employed within, to continue the figurehead's work.

John Galiano, the flamboyant British designer, was recruited last autumn to update the house of Christian Dior, which has suffered years of vicious infighting. Karl Lagerfeld is at Chanel. It is unlikely that the great woman herself, Coco Chanel, who died in 1971, would have approved of what he has done with her legacy, but he has turned the brand around financially.

Tom Ford achieved the same at Gucci, also riven by fratricidal quarrels, in the 1990s. What was once a fading luxury goods house with a slightly tacky image is now back in the front rank of fashion.

In 1957 when Christian Dior died from a heart attack, a young man called Yves Saint Laurent was promoted from within. It worked, for a while:

but four years later he sued Dior for enough money to start his own fashion house.

This is one danger. The other is that the successor is too stuck in the mould of his mentor to move the brand forward.

Pam Robertson is director of strategy at Interbrand, the consultant on brands. She points to a British example. After Laura Ashley died in 1985, her work was continued by her husband Bernard, the business brain of the partnership. "They had a real hiccup," says Ms Robertson. "They tried to retain the brand as it was when she created it, when as a designer she would have moved it on."

The company kept the *Diary of an Edwardian Country Lady* feel that had made its name. Only recently, under Ann Iverson, the American chief executive, has the company been heading towards a more modern look, and it is a move that, as disappointed investors are too well aware, has yet to prove successful.

"The trick is finding a designer who shares the same vision as the original," says Ms Robertson. "If the brand is a true one, it has an essence which has to be maintained, but it also has to be moved on. That's the real trick."

By this argument, carrying on the trick at Versace should not be difficult in the short term, because his design is sufficiently distinctive to suit imitation. But some in the fashion world say his look, of aggressive female sexuality, has been overtaken by more restrained designers such as Prada and Gucci.

Perhaps the best course of action is that adopted by Max Mara, an Italian house that is shaping up to take over from Prada and Gucci at the cutting edge of fashion. There is a controlling family, with all the potential for friction that that brings. But there is not, and never was, a Max Mara. So the brand is immortal. And the brand is all.

## Casual slip

HIGH Jinks at the High Court. Country Casuals, the bid-plagued womenswear chain, has settled the court action brought by former chairman John Shannon. This will be formally announced this morning. But the terms of settlement will not be announced, because both parties have been silenced by a confidentiality agreement. Shh. Nobody must ever know.

Except those present at the High Court yesterday — and readers of *The Times*. The lawyers acting for Country Casuals blurred the details out before they could be silenced.



"Most nuisance callers seem to be shareholders trying to contact our chairman"

by those acting for Shannon. He was suing for unfair dismissal and for full payment of his two-year rolling contract after his departure in September 1994, which was followed by a bid for the company by his vehicle. My spy in the courtroom says Shannon, who led the initial buy-out of Country Casuals in 1989, didn't get a bean, and was hit with a £250,000 bill for costs. But don't tell anyone I said so.

FROM the bulletin to all employees of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan about progress towards the merger. Apologies to Spanish-speaking markets who received a misleading translation of the comments made by Eian (Johnston) and Jack (McGrath) about the location of head offices for Asia and Latin America regions in Merger Bulletin no. 6. The translator misinterpreted the words 'they will be run out of Hong Kong and Miami' as 'they will be chased out of Hong Kong and Miami' with the result that the Spanish version said the exact opposite of what was intended.

### Short cut

A VERY nasty punch-up in the secretive world of headhunt-



ing. The story goes thus. An employee of a world-famous advertising group rings a headhunter, requesting details of candidates for an assignment in Poland, of all places. He asks for them to be sent to his private fax. The headhunter, which does act for the advertiser, obliges. In later conversation with the client, the name of the employee comes up.

Not one of ours, says the puzzled adman — we thought he was one of yours. He's been on to us too. The "employee" in fact worked for another headhunter, a blither rival. He had found an ingenious short cut to avoid the sheer tedium of original research. The rival headhunter, I am told, tried to laugh it off but the aggrieved party wants blood, and there is talk of the police being called in. Watch this space.

### New Parker

A PUZZLED City woke up yesterday to read in a rival paper that Alan Parker, head of the Brunswick PR concern that has just taken over the British Airways account from Lowe Bell, was a "long-time Labour supporter". This is "long-time" as in "ever since May 2 this year", surely? Plenty of those around. Brunswick says its policy is that the senior partner should not be politically aligned. My impression is that Parker is something of a Blairite these days — which makes him anything but a long-time Labour man, I would have thought.

FORTUNE OIL has inserted a curious condition into the option to take new shares granted to Barry Cheung, its clean-living chief executive. Shareholders at the extraordinary meeting of the oil trader on Monday week will have to vote on a clause that requires the employment to be terminated in certain circumstances, "for example serious misconduct, personal bankruptcy, persistent insobriety (i) or death".

### Celtic call

FORGET the abrupt plunge in BT's shares last week after a surprise profits warning from MCI, the American phone company BT is trying to buy for £12 billion. Forget the ex-

clusive pay and awards scheme at the merged company, among the most lavish on the planet. What aroused the greatest passion at BT's annual meeting in Edinburgh yesterday was phone boxes and phone directories. One articulate, albeit pedantic, investor complained that the Welsh signs in BT's phone boxes in Wales — the translation of the &, to be specific — did not make Celtic sense. Another complained, also at length, that names in the Edinburgh phone directory were not always listed in alphabetical order. Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, listened with reasonable patience. He clearly could not believe his luck.

MARTIN WALLER



Sir Iain Vallance got off lightly at BT's annual meeting in Edinburgh

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## ACCOUNTANCY

## Giving technical leadership

David Perry sets out the challenge alongside his vision for the future

THE English ICA has always rightly prided itself on the quality of its technical output and it has a long tradition of contributing to the development of thinking and technical standards across all areas of chartered accountants' work. Much is done by unpaid volunteers working in business and the practising firms who rely on the support and leadership of the full-time institute staff.

Having had about six weeks to begin to understand the vast range of technical activities undertaken within the institute or co-ordinated by it, I am now better able to pull together my vision for the future.

Broadly, I believe the Institute has a duty to provide a clear and relevant technical leadership, with the aim of continually raising standards and knowledge. It represents members in different constituencies whose interests do not always coincide. The concerns of the largest auditing firms for example may not be the same as those of the smallest; the concerns of finance directors and chartered accountants working in business generally are often different or opposed to those of members in practice. The focus of technical activities must recognise differences and aim to provide support for all members.

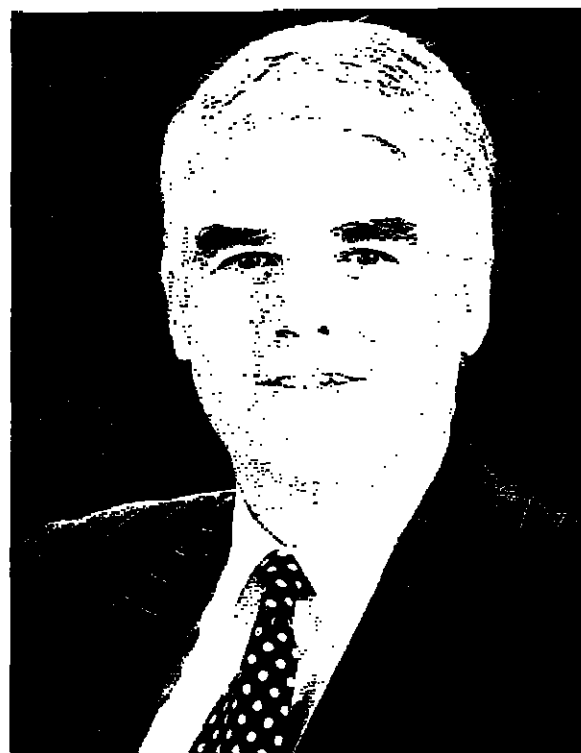
While recognising the desir-

ability of seeking agreed submissions to the international debate through the use of Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB) committees, I am aware that this has resulted in the institute's own voice not being clearly heard. The institute should also publicise its own views alongside those of the CCAB.

As members working in business comprise about half the membership of the Institute, more effort needs to be extended to provide relevant technical support to those engaged in the management of finance functions.

The institute cannot be complacent in the technical area. It is important that there is perceived value from its technical activities which must be focused on what members need to help them in their daily work, as well as being sufficiently far-sighted and radical so that the institute is seen as being a valuable contributor to the formulation of law, standards and policy by government, international bodies and standard setters.

We should not just represent the views of members — a difficult enough task given the size and disparate views of the membership — but also take positions on technical issues with which many of our members may not agree.



David Perry welcomes contributions to the debate

Some particular areas where the institute should take a lead include:

□ Corporate accountability and reporting on the Internet — the use of the Internet for making corporate information available poses many questions for preparers and users of financial statements. The institute is to host a conference on corporate accountability in cyberspace this year at which the issues will be discussed.

□ The introduction of the euro. This will have a significant impact on British companies, whether the UK is in or out of the first phase. The issues are not fully understood and despite the best efforts of the DTI and the UK 100 group there remains vast ignorance of its effects and what needs to be done to prepare.

□ The Year 2000 issue (or "millennium timebomb") is well recognised as a threat to

many businesses. The Institute is already providing much help and advice to its members through the Faculty of Finance and Management and Information Technology. The technical department is actively working to co-ordinate institute activities and to provide practical advice to members, to alert them to the problems and to assist in finding workable solutions.

□ Fraud is an increasing cost to businesses. The recent successful conference on fraud at Moorgate Place has led to the plan to set up a Fraud Advisory Panel, which will be organised by the Audit Faculty.

The next three years are likely to pose many challenges for those contributing to the technical agenda. Apart from the impact on the institute, they will affect standard setters with the move to increased use of international accounting and auditing standards. The institute is well placed to respond to these challenges, but must remain alert and focused on the important issues. Part of my role is to ensure that it does so and I welcome comment and advice from all those with an interest in contributing to the debate.

David Perry was appointed Director of Technical Development and Promotion at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in May. Previously he was a partner at Arthur Andersen, and spent two years at the firm's Moscow and St Petersburg offices.

## Papers shatter myths about evil empires

THERE has always been an uneasy relationship between academics and practitioners. The academics argue that accountants in business and practice never think but just power ahead with the bottom line in focus. Accountants in business and practice take the view that academics exist in a feather-bedded never-never land and, on the few occasions that they come into contact with the business world, tend to savage it unmercifully.

Neither view is true. Both sides like to keep the pretence going, but on the evidence of this week's annual conference on financial accounting and auditing research, funded by the English ICA, it is going to become increasingly difficult. It opened with Chris Swinson, the institute's deputy president, suggesting the distance between academics and practitioners was "a great weakness in the profession".

But hardly had he sat down than we heard from the first two research papers that the large accountancy firms were doing a good job and were reckoned to be pretty independent in outlook. In the past this would have had academics falling off their chairs in disbelief. Traditionally the view has been that large accounting firms were good for a bit of funding but, that apart, were evil empires.

First, Peter Moizer, of Leeds University Business School, delivered his paper on company directors' views on the performance of their auditors. Moizer carried out a similar survey in 1987, based on the views of the finance directors of The Times Top 1,000 companies. Now, with a survey in 1996, he has updated it and can show trends over what has been a turbulent decade for accountants. The key point is that it destroys many myths. One is that finance directors hate their auditors. It is assumed, from anecdotal evidence freely available in the bar after any conference on financial reporting, that auditors are a waste of space and, but for a statutory requirement, no one would submit to an audit. Yet Moizer's research tells a different story. Both 1987 and 1996 surveys show the performance of auditors to be rated highly and that views had hardly changed. Top of the satisfaction list was the technical competence of audit partners and bottom of the list, perhaps predictably, was value for money, though even that has improved slightly since 1987.

The surveys show that personal contact with the audit partner is rated as the vital fac-

tor in this success. Oddly enough, in that smaller firms make much more play of being able to provide sensible partner contact, this does not seem to come across in the perception of finance directors, though medium-sized firms seem to score better. In any case small and medium-sized firms have dropped out of the spectrum of the companies surveyed. In 1987 the top firms had 78.8 per cent of the market surveyed and the medium-sized firms had 11.1 per cent. The 1996 figures show the Big Six with 91.9 per cent of the market, medium-sized firms with 5.3 per cent.

Other elements stayed consistent. The average age of the finance directors involved remains at 43 years in both surveys, though the influence of finance directors' backgrounds appeared to have turned a somersault. In 1987 the more time a finance director had spent within an accountancy firm earlier in their career, the less they were likely to be satisfied with their auditors. The 1996 figures shows the opposite. For John Kellas, of KPMG, who provided the discussion on Moizer's paper, this was a pleasant surprise, as was the revelation that finance directors had spent, on average, 11 years with a professional firm. This again flies in the face of the perceived wisdom. "The perception in the firms," said Kellas, "is that the good people leave early, yet the survey suggests that stayers do best."

Other quirks stood out. Perception of the Big Six firms was that they were much of a muchness in both surveys. Only two firms stood out — for different reasons. In 1987 Price Waterhouse was pre-eminent in terms of perception of quality. Now it is back among the pack. In the 1996 survey Deloitte & Touche stood out as having the lowest performance rating. Overall the conclusions were that satisfaction with auditors is "remarkably stable in the period 1986-96 and reflects general satisfaction with the services provided by the audit firm".

Immediately after Moizer's paper more research, this time based on the Irish market, was unveiled. This showed that the Big Six firms were seen as more independent and more reliable than their competitors. It was up to Mike Power, of the LSE, to redress the balance. "Interviewees are unintelligent," he said. "It is almost not worth interviewing people who give the party line." There is life in the old accounting academic line still.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Contrived measure

NOTHING in the world of tax legislation ever becomes simpler. Even the categories of the ways not to pay tax are expanding. Blackstone Franks, the enterprising small accounting firm, has come up with a new one in its Budget commentary.

"It is interesting and worrying," it says, that "alongside tax avoidance, tax evasion and tax mitigation as ways

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

not to pay tax," the Chancellor "has discerned a new category of 'contrived tax planning'." Accountants naturally resent all this. They know that it is going to be the lawyers who clean up when legal definitions and clarifications are required.

**Valentine's day**  
IF THE description is not a

## Ring for Jeeves!

TONY RING, one-time president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, was out drumming up custom for his other enthusiasm last week. At the relaunch of the P. G. Wodehouse Society he was urging all and sundry to join. With everyone from the Prime Minister to Alan Coren

## as newly installed patrons, he was in good company.

Wodehouse's granddaughter sang her grandfather's songs, and Ring offered to demonstrate the Swedish exercises with which Wodehouse started each day. These came from *Woozle Sauce*, the society's newsletter, which Ring now edits. All enthusiasts are invited to join and should call either 0171-230 5347 or Ring himself on 01494 864948.

ROBERT BRUCE

## Court of Appeal

## Law Report July 17 1997

## Court of Appeal

## Curate cannot be an employee

**Dioecesis of Southwark and Others v Coker**  
Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Mummery  
[Judgment July 11]

An assistant curate in the Church of England was not an employee for the purposes of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 and accordingly an industrial tribunal had no jurisdiction to hear his complaint of unfair dismissal.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by Dr Alexander Coker against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (The Times, April 14, 1996) [1996] ICR 889 on an appeal by the Diocese of Southwark, the Bishop of Southwark and the Diocesan Board of Finance from the decision of a South London industrial tribunal chairman (Professor R. V. Bulech) [1995] ICR 503 on a preliminary issue of law, that the tribunal had jurisdiction to hear Dr Coker's claim that he had been unfairly dismissed when he was removed from the diocesan payroll in May 1994 after working as an assistant curate since December 1990.

Mr Joseph Hage for Dr Coker. Mr Paul Goulding for the appellants.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the question on appeal was whether, while he was an assistant curate at St Luke's, Woodside, from December 1990 to December 1993 and at St Philip's, Cheam Common, from December 1993 to May 1994, Dr Coker was an employee for the purposes of the 1978 Act, now the Employment Rights Act 1996. If he was, he had the right not to be unfairly dismissed and by virtue of section 54(1) of the 1978 Act an industrial tribunal had jurisdiction to hear the complaint.

The original respondent to the application was named as the Diocese of Southwark, within which both St Luke's and St Philip's parishes were situated. However, the diocese, which has under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Southwark, had no capacity to sue or be sued and accordingly the appeal tribunal had ordered the bishop and the Diocesan Board of Finance, a limited company which paid Dr Coker's stipend, to be added as respondents.

The appeal focused on three questions: (i) Did Dr Coker have a contract at all? (ii) If so, was it a contract of service? (iii) If so, who was the employer? In his Lordship's judgment, the critical question was the first one.

Mr Hage made four points in

support of his argument:

1 If, as the appeal tribunal had held, Dr Coker was not an employee, then it followed that not only did he not have rights under the 1978 Act but also the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, the Wages Act 1986 and health and safety rights, which were that an assistant curate was an officer-holder and the duties were spiritual.

2 Earlier authorities relied upon by the respondents invoked various justifications for members of the clergy not being employees, but there were only really two points which were that an assistant curate was an officer-holder and the duties were spiritual.

The chairman of the industrial tribunal, having referred to *Barthorp v Essex Diocesan Board of Finance* [1979] ICR 908, had held that Dr Coker was not an officer-holder, so far as spiritual duties being a bar to employment were concerned, it had been recognised in *Davies v Presbyterian Church of Wales* [1986] ICR 283 that a man could be employed as a servant or an independent contractor, when carrying out exclusively spiritual duties.

3 The respondents' position was indefensible in principle or on policy grounds since all elements of a contract were present.

4 Mr Hage invited the court to distinguish earlier cases, all of

which concerned non-conformist churches and submitted that the precedents did not prevent the court from holding that there was jurisdiction to entertain Dr Coker's claim. In enacting rights, Parliament had not expressly excluded the clergy and a modern approach needed to be taken.

In his Lordship's judgment, the decision of the industrial tribunal chairman was legally wrong. The error was in adopting an incorrect approach in assuming that there was a contractually enforceable agreement. Although it had not been explicitly analysed in the cases of *President of the Methodist Conference v Parfitt* [1984] ICR 176 and *Davies v Presbyterian Church of Wales* the precise reason for the absence of a contract, was the lack of intention to create a contractual relationship of any kind.

In his Lordship's judgment, the position was as follows: that not every agreement constituted a binding contract, there had to be an intention to create legal relations; that the intention had to be objectively ascertained; in some cases, there was no contract, unless an intention had been established, such was the present case.

It was of critical significance that an assistant curate was ordained and was called to an office recognised by law: it was therefore not necessary to enter into a contract. It also made the relationship more appropriate for the spiritual jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts.

The law required clear evidence of an intention to create legal relations over and above those which were present here.

It had never been held that an incumbent of a parish was under a contract with the bishop or anyone else.

As far as his Lordship was concerned, it was difficult to see why an ordained priest was under a contract. His Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Parker in *In re National Insurance Act 1911* [1912] 2 Ch 563 that a curate in the Church of England was not an employee. That legal position had not changed.

The right of an employee not to be unfairly dismissed by his employer under section 54(1) of the 1978 Act could not apply to Dr Coker because he did not have an employer.

The Diocese of Southwark was not his employer, nor was it a legal person. Those who paid Dr Coker neither appointed or removed him. That left the bishop who had the legal responsibility for licensing assistant curates. That relationship was governed by canonical obedience. There was no private law contract.

Lord Justice Ward agreed and Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: J. D. Spicer & Co, Edmonson; Crown Prosecution Service, Thames Street.

**Regina v Cole**  
**Regina v Lees**  
**Regina v Birch**  
Before Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Collins and Mrs Justice Steel  
[Judgment July 3]

The offence of being a director of a company known by a prohibited name, contrary to section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986, was an offence of strict liability.

The disqualification order envisaged by section 1(1) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 was only one disqualification category rather than five separate categories of disqualification.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing appeals by Philip Francis Cole, Francis Gerard Lees and David Brian Birch against their convictions in July 1996 at Liverpool Crown Court Judge Richard Pickering and a jury of being a director of a company known by a prohibited name, contrary to section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 for which they were each sentenced to perform 200 hours community service.

Cole and Lees were disqualified for being company directors for two years and each was ordered to pay £500 towards prosecution costs and Birch was disqualified for being a director, liquidator, administrator, receiver or manager of company property for three years and was ordered to pay

£1,000 towards prosecution costs.

Section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 provides: "(1) This section applies to a person who is a director... of the company at any time in the period of 12 months ending with the day before it went into liquidation.

"(2) ... a name is a prohibited name in relation to such a person if ... (b) it is a name which is so similar ... as to suggest an association with that company.

"(3) Except with leave of the court ... a person to whom this section applies shall not ... (a) be a director of any other company that is known by a prohibited name ...

"(4) If a person acts in contravention of this section, he is liable to imprisonment or a fine, or both."

Section 1 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 provides: "(1) ... a court may ... make against a person a disqualification order, that is to say an order that he shall not, without leave of the court ... (a) be a director of a company, (b) be a liquidator or administrator of a company, or (c) be a receiver or manager of a company's property, or (d) in any way, whether directly or indirectly, be concerned or take part in the promotion, formation or management of a company."

Mr Ian McCulloch and Mr Duncan Macpherson, who did not appear below, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for

Cole and Lees; Miss Tanya Woolfs, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for Birch; Mr David Boulton (on conviction), Mr William Charles and Mr Malcolm Davis-White, who did not appear below (on sentence) for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the appellants were directors of a company called East Africa Freight Lines Ltd which had been carrying on business since October 1988.

In September 1991 a company called East Africa Lines was set up with the appellants as directors. The first company ran into financial difficulties and in March 1992 was wound up but the appellants continued to act as directors of the second company.

At a preliminary hearing submissions were heard as to whether section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 was an offence of strict liability. Initially the judge ruled that that proof of mens rea was required but having considered the guidance offered in *R v Brockley* [1994] Cr App R 385 in relation to a parallel provision in section 1 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 which created an offence where a person who was an undischarged bankrupt acted as a director of a company, the judge decided his initial ruling was wrong and held that section 216 did create an absolute offence.

The appellants' defence was that although the case of *R v Brockley* concerned a different section of a different act, by way of analogy it lent support to the prosecution's argument that proof of mens rea was not required.

In their Lordships' judgment the crucial words in section 216 were to be found in subsection (4) which contained in very plain terms what the prosecution had to prove and said nothing about proving knowledge or intention to defraud or deceive. In the absence of other grounds of appeal the convictions were accordingly safe and correct.

On the disqualification under section 1(1) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, it was their Lordships' view that that Act envisaged only one disqualification not five separate categories.

It followed that the order made by the judge was invalid and should be made valid by each appellant being generally disqualified under section 1 from the date of sentence by the judge and for the period he stated.

That was not dealing with them differently, it was the way in which the judge ought to have dealt with them and was consistent with the approach of the Court of Appeal in the cases of *Re Gower Enterprises* (No. 2) [1995] 2 BCLC 201 and *Official Receiver v Hannan* (The Times March 20, 1997).

Solicitors: Solicitor, Department of Trade and Industry.

## Driving when disqualification still valid is an offence

**Regina v Thames Magistrates Court, Ex parte Levy**  
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Garland  
[Judgment June 10]

A driver was guilty of driving a motor vehicle while disqualified for driving even when the original offence to which the disqualifying period related had been quashed.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application for judicial review by Darren Levy to quash his conviction by Mr Stephen Dawson, Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate at Thames Magistrates Court on October 23, 1996 of driving while disqualified contrary to section 103(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

On June 17, 1996 he had been found guilty of various motoring offences by Highbury Corner Magistrates Court for which he was sentenced, inter alia, to 12 months disqualification from driving. He appealed against the convictions but did not apply to have the disqualification suspended pending the outcome.

During the period of disqualification, he was twice stopped while driving and charged, inter alia, with driving while disqualified. On September 25, 1996 his appeal against the convictions of June 17 was successful and the convictions were quashed.

On October 23, 1996 at Thames Magistrates Court he was found guilty, inter alia, of driving while disqualified although the offence to which the disqualification related had been quashed.

Miss Ruth Kirby for the applicant. Mr Andrew Colman for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said the applicant had requested judicial review of the magistrate's refusal to state a case and an order of mandamus that he be required to state a case.

His Lordship considered the preferable approach was to face the true issue of the case and request judicial review of the legality of the conviction on October 23. The parties agreed and proceeded on that basis.

His Lordship referred to the statement of Lord Widgery in *R v Lynn* [1971] RTR 369, 370: "The first point which was taken below but is not taken here was that, since the initial disqualification of December 3, 1969 was subsequently set aside on appeal, the act of driving on December 8, 1969 was not a breach of the law at all, in other words, it did not amount to an offence. That argument has not been pursued in this court, and rightly so, because it seems to us perfectly clear ... that that is an untenable argument. Although the

disqualification was later removed, it was effective on December 3, 1969 and for the appellant to drive on December 8, 1969 was clearly a breach of the law."

The question before the court was whether that statement was right or wrong.

None of the authorities referred to by the applicant: *R v Barron* [1994] 10 Cr App R 81, *Hancock v Prison Commissioners* [1995] 3 All ER 513, *Sambasivan v Public Prosecutor, Federation of Malaya* [1950] AC 458 and *In re G (an Infant) v Collett* [1967] 1 QB 432 gave any support to his argument that the quashing of the original conviction, to which the disqualification period related had the consequence of nullifying the subsequent conviction of driving while disqualified.

The statement of Lord Widgery in *Lynn* was correct and every consideration of good justice led inevitably to the conclusion that it would be wrong to set aside the judgment of the magistrate. The appellant was guilty once and for all when pending an appeal he nevertheless drove a motor vehicle while an order of disqualification was lawfully in force.

Mr Justice Garland agreed.

Solicitors: J. D. Spicer & Co, Edmonson; Crown Prosecution Service, Thames Street.

## Court cannot grant solicitor only certificate

**Regina v Seale**  
Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Holland and Mr Justice Langley  
[Judgment July 3]

There was no power to grant legal aid representation by solicitor only under regulation 44(1) of the Legal Aid in Criminal and Care Proceedings (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 344).

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Peter Seale against his conviction at Manchester Crown Court (Judge Sachs and a jury) of five offences of robbery and one offence of having a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence, namely robbery. He was sentenced to concurrent prison terms of 18 years on each count.

The appellant in person, Mr Anthony Morris, QC and Mr Paul C. Reid for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that at the beginning of the trial the appellant had dispensed with his counsel because, he said, of their lack of commitment but he wanted his solicitor to continue and he did not want his legal aid certificate revoked.

The judge refused to adjourn but said that he would amend the legal

aid certificate, if he had the power, to provide for solicitor only representation.

On appeal, the question arose as to the effect of what the judge did and did in the light of the 1989 Regulations and the authorities.

In their Lordships' judgment the following principles emerged:

1 There was no power under regulation 44(1) to grant legal aid for representation by a solicitor only (see *R v Mills* (unreported, March 21, 1997) and in so far as *R v Kirk* [1982] 7 Cr App R 194 suggested otherwise, their Lordships, unlike the court in *Mills*, were unable to discern any difference between the old section 30(1) in the Legal Aid Act 1974 and the new regulation 44.

2 A judge could only withdraw a legal aid order if all legal representatives withdrew from the case (regulation 50(2)). If only some withdrew the order could not be revoked. That too merited consideration by the Lord Chancellor.

3 A judge could amend a legal aid order by substituting fresh legal

representatives for representatives previously assigned (regulation 50(1)) but he had a discretion. He was under no obligation to assign new legal aid representatives or to amend the order simply because the defendant chose to discontinue one or more of his legal representatives.

In *Mills* the judge purported to amend the order to provide for solicitor only representation. In the present case the judge said he amended his discretion in the appellant's favour and the appellant continued to be entitled but had chosen to discontinue with the services.

4 In some cases it might be necessary for a judge to conduct an inquiry as to why a defendant had dispensed with counsel: see *R v Chambers* (unreported, December 16, 1988); *R v Davies* (The Times February 11, 1987) and *R v McAllister* [1988] Crim LR 380.

Whether such an inquiry was necessary would depend on the circumstances of the case. In the present case the judge was familiar with the circumstances and no further inquiry was, in their Lordships' view, necessary.

5 An irregularity in the trial judge's treatment of a defendant's legal aid representation might lead to the

quashing of the conviction, as it did in *Chambers* and *Davies*, but would not necessarily do so, see *R v Dimech* [1991] Crim LR 846) and would not do so when the result of the trial would inevitably have been the same.

Was the judge justified in refusing an adjournment? It seemed to their Lordships that there was ample material before the judge for him to conclude that the appellant's object in dismissing counsel was to shop around. It was pertinent to pose that in connection with his trial and appeal, the appellant had been successfully represented by a total of seven counsel.

It was apparent that the appellant did not accept advice from counsel which he did not like. Accordingly, even if the judge had exercised his discretion in the appellant's favour the case showed that counsel would have been unlikely to survive.

In the present case, there was no irregularity in relation to the appellant's legal aid. There was no reason to regard the conviction as unsafe since the evidence against him was overwhelming, to the extent that full legal representation could not have been expected to overcome.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Manchester.







فَدَا عَنْ الْأَهْلِ



# My, T-Rex, what blunted teeth you have

In *The Lost World*, Spielberg returns to his primeval cash cow. Geoff Brown is glad when the journey is over

Four years ago, *Jurassic Park* caused mouths to drop, teeth to clench and knuckles to whiten. Computer-generated dinosaurs stampeded across the screen, crushing and chewing human beings and props. The film gave audiences some of the thrills that Roman crowds must have felt watching Christians thrown to the lions.

Similar stampedes occur in *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, but the effect is different. Been there, done that. One almost yawns.

Partly, this is the price paid by Steven Spielberg, the novelist Michael Crichton, and their crew for relying so much on special effects at the expense of stories and characters. No technology stands still in Hollywood, least of all the business of computer-generated images. So the dinosaur line-up — among them the mighty Tyrannosaurus Rex, the nasty velociraptor, and the compositing, a pint-sized nuisance — is paraded and juggled with even greater ingenuity than before.

But the intervening years of imitative, inferior product have removed the creature's novelty. The excitement gone, we are left to contemplate the script's bare bones, and await the rustle in the tree tops or thundering foot that indicates carnage ahead. There is also time to contemplate the roundabout of Spielberg's career, which spins from *Schindler's List*, in praise of the survival instinct, to a film that lusts for its characters' death.

So who are the humans fed to the dinosaurs engineered on a Costa Rican island close to the original Jurassic Park site? Lord Attenborough, as the theme park's designer John Hammond, takes a back seat, having lost control of his InGen corporation (along with all trace of his Scottish accent). But Jeff Goldblum returns as Ian Malcolm, the quirky chaos mathematician upgraded from comic commentator to leading man.

"People shouldn't be where dinosaurs are," he muses. Yet he puts himself in the line of fire to document the dinosaurs left to run wild after a hurricane destroyed the scientists' base. He has sentimental reasons among others: palaeontologist girlfriend Julianne Moore is on the spot, a dinosaur's meal in waiting.

There are other newcomers sitting pretty. Goldblum's stowaway daughter (mutatio, to suit PC requirements), InGen functionaries and the ubiquitous Pete Postlethwaite as a big-game hunter hired to

catch species for a new theme park in San Diego. Sophisticated acting is neither required nor supplied. These people exist only to be menaced, chased through foliage, pushed off a cliff, or ripped to pieces.

Spielberg can engineer shocks with the best, and knows all about the sentimental potential of a wounded baby T-Rex, bandaged by dotting humans. But the monotony remains considerable, and one heaves a sigh when the *Lost World* cast, T-Rex and all, flies back to America for a finale heavily dependent on *King Kong*. At least the scenery is different: suburban homes, city streets, the classic

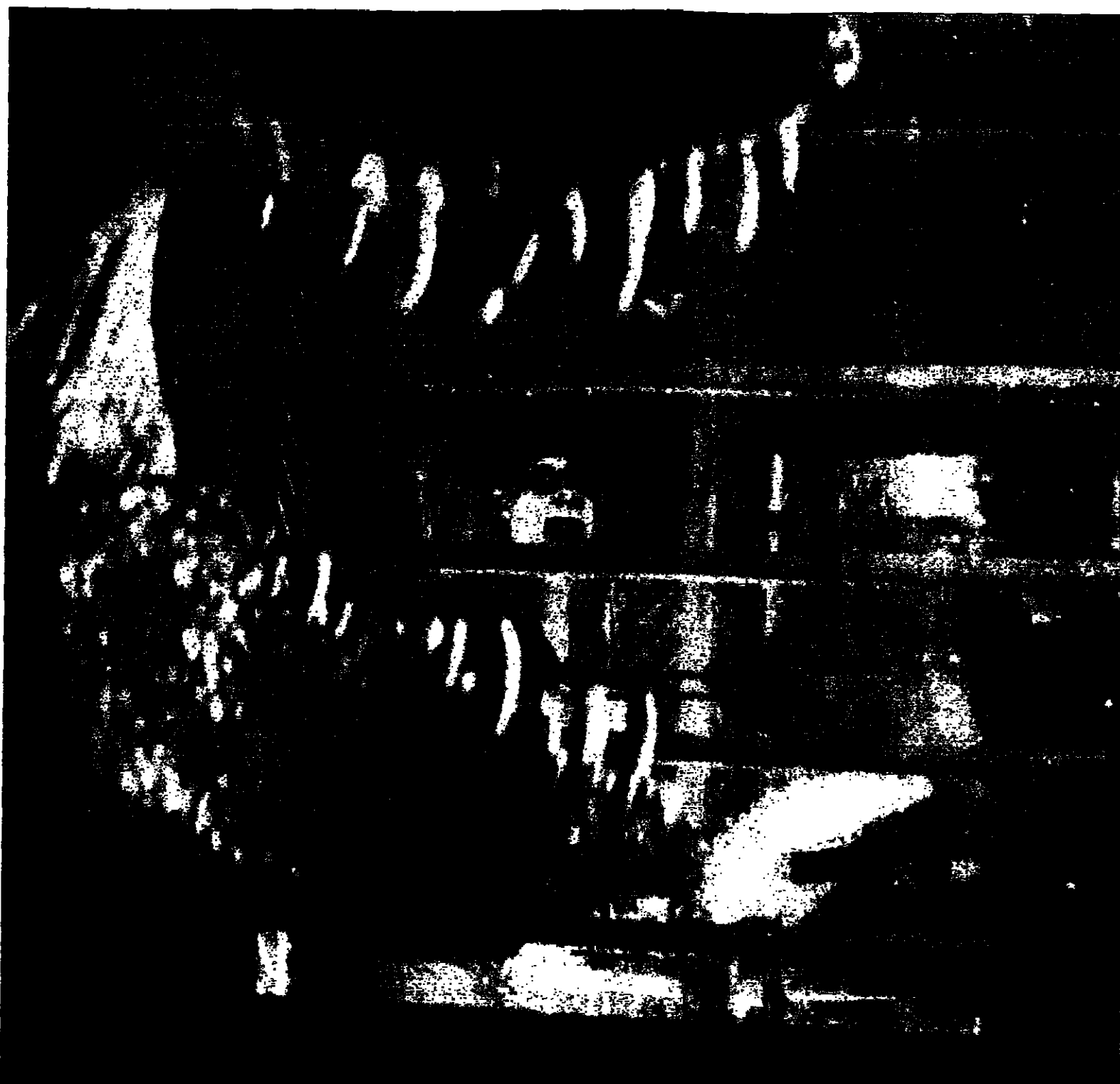
but little humour or action. People tend to remember details — the dogs chewing different ends of the same string of spaghetti — but struggle to recall the plot.

The plot fades from the memory even as you watch: was it something about a roving mongrel who comes to the aid of a pedigree spaniel left to the mercies of a nasty aunt while her owners are away? The setting is a period one (early this century, in New England), although no benefit comes from that.

At least the best songs are recognisable. *Bella Notte* sing the owner and cook at Tony's Italian restaurant as Lady and Tramp buckle down to spaghetti, meat balls and romance. Two Siamese cats, voiced by Peggy Lee, who co-wrote the songs, warble *We are Siamese if you please* as they mess up the house and pin the blame on Lady. The animation is prosaic at times, but moves on to a higher plane for the climactic scenes of the city at night, when the Dog Catcher's wagon is chased in the dim moonlight across muddy streets.

As for the characters, whether human or canine, they lack edge. Ladylike Lady and the roguish Tramp make insipid heroes. Stan Freberg's voice makes hay with the Beaver, enrolled by Tramp to free Lady's muzzle, but the Dog Catcher — a figure of comic evil in the later *One Hundred and One Dalmatians* — is an opportunity missed. Lady's owners spend most of the movie out of town; just as well, some might say, since their names are Darling and Jim Dear. The whole concoction is tenuous and well-proportioned; adults and streetwise children, however, will be twiddling their thumbs.

Thirty years ago, Michael Frayn wrote a television play called *Jamie, On a Flying Visit*, in which Jamie, a rich social gadfly, suddenly looks up a college girlfriend trapped in marriage and suburban routine. The dust blown off, the contents reworked, the play has become *Remember*



"People shouldn't be where dinosaurs are," muses Jeff Goldblum (right). Tyrannosaurus Rex adds weight to his words in *The Lost World*

## The Lost World: Jurassic Park

Empire, PG, 129 mins  
Routine return of the dinosaurs

## Lady and the Tramp

Warner West End, U, 76 mins  
Mildly enjoyable Disney revival

## Remember Me?

National Film Theatre, PG, 81 mins  
Lukewarm farce from Michael Frayn

## The Butterfly Effect

ABC Swiss Centre, 12, 109 mins  
Continental high jinks come to south London

Hollywood background for a monster running amok.

But even here the mayhem fails to lift this blockbuster far off the ground. Like too many movies, *The Lost World* is no living organism, but a machine, factory-assembled from existing blueprints and duplicate parts. Those who settle into their seats with high expectations and a bucket of popcorn may well get caught up in its cogs and wheels. But under the high-tech surface so much of the film is routine that even rabid *Jurassic* fans might begin to recognise dinosaurs' limitations as movie stars: seen one, you've seen them all.

*The Lost World* appears to have frightened off other films this week. Even the latest Disney revival is one of the master's lesser works. *Lady and the Tramp*, the studio's first CinemaScope cartoon, released in 1955, has plenty of charm of a wan, cloying kind.

## THIS SUMMER'S HOTTEST TICKET



## Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

THE NEW HIT MUSICAL

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THE DOMINION THEATRE

## Riding the crest of a new Irish wave

Luke Clancy picks the highlights from Galway's film feast

Irish film-makers seem finally to have found the confidence to do without the stories of sectarian strife, country life and coming of age which for too long have been their mainstays. Fresh subject-matter was so noticeable at this year's Galway Film Fleadh that there were guarded mentions of a "new wave of Irish film-making", with one director even offering a Gaelic neologism, "Nuascannán", which brusquely translates as "new film".

Laid out at the Fleadh, undoubtedly the premier harvest festival for Irish film, was an impressive range of movies. Offerings ranged from the first film made by an Irish director at Roger Cornsman's West of Ireland studios, a meat-and-two-veg exploitation movie called *Criminal Affair*, to Tom Collins's languorous Derry tearjerker, *Bogwoman*, a kind of *Distant Voices*. Still Lives with period bombs.

Back in the old film world, or "Seascannán" (two can play at the neologism game), the Film Fleadh's Neil Jordan retrospective took in ten films, from 1982's *Angel*, featuring Stephen Rea, right up to the world premiere of his latest, an adaptation of Patrick McCabe's *The Butcher Boy*, also featuring Rea.

In the latter, set in Fifties Ireland, the always wilful Francis Brady (played by the child actor Eamonn Owens) is not dealing at all well with the death of his mother and father, nor the desertion of his best friend. He withdraws further and further into an imaginary world, until he begins to act out the vicious fantasies of comic books and pulp TV on his schoolmates and neighbours.

Jordan pulls off the difficult trick of translating the book's sprightly, unhinged interior monologue into cinema by

way of some appealing voice-over work from Rea, who also helps out as Francis's troubled musician father.

This is one of Jordan's quieter, smaller Irish pictures. The director finds roles for Brendan Gleeson, Sean Hughes, Ardai O'Hanlon, Fiona Shaw, Rosaleen Line-

For £1 each the children got a neat movie with a moral punch

han, and even Sinead O'Connor as a decidedly untrustworthy Virgin Mary.

If Jordan has been scrupulous about spreading the work among a large Irish cast, one actor seems determined to do the work of ten. Brian F. O'Byrne, who gathered a large sheaf of excited reviews for the roles he played in all three parts of the Druid Theatre's production of Martin McDonagh's *Leenane* trilogy, seems to have been absent from remarkably few Irish film sets this year.

O'Byrne is the lonely provincial greenhouse keeper at the centre of *The Fifth Province*, the first feature from Frank Stapleton, a gently han-

dled, playful movie about films and storytelling. Timmy (O'Byrne) is nagged by his mysterious mother, misunderstood by his alcoholic bird-watching shrink (Ian Richardson) and pursued by a disturbed European film-script doctor, played with relish by Lia Williams.

O'Byrne also hops aboard Johnny Gogan's enjoyable punk nostalgia story, *The Last Bus Home*, playing the Gelfoquesque lead singer of aspiring snot and feedback superstars The Dead Patriots. There has, of course, been some cultural activity in Ireland lately that did not feature O'Byrne. Graham Jones's *How to Cheat in the Leaving Certificate* has a cast of young actors and was put together with the assistance of schoolchildren throughout Ireland, many of whom were happy to respond to the director's request for a contribution of £1 towards its making. For their 100 pence the kids get a neat, tense, low-budget black and white heist movie that delivers an unexpected moral punch.

Not everyone who put money behind this year's Irish film crop received nearly such impressive rewards. On the roll of dishonour were the stalled Mia Farrow vehicle, *Angela Mooney Dies Again*, a sloppy and eventually sham-bolic would-be allegory of contemporary Ireland. Another equally mistaken venture was *Snakes and Ladders*. Directed by Trish McAdam and set among a group of whineysomething Dubliners, McAdam's film offers a rough rebuke to all those who want to make films while having next to nothing worth saying, and little better than ham-fisted cinematic language in which to say it. Why or how the Irish Film Board involved itself in such a complacent effort is hard to figure.

struggling for every penny, while Lindsay's polished exterior and Rolls-Royce hide exquisite desperation. The direction of Nick Hurran adds to the weight of doom: he lets scenes sag while spending time draping exteriors of the semi-detached house in fancy shots best suited to Dracula's headquarters.

The cast of familiar faces buckles down to the task, looking harassed, bemused or frantic while rattling off Frayn's concise dialogue. But compared to Frayn's theatrical successes or Mike Leigh's comedies of middle-class life, *Remember Me?* is something no one is likely to remember for long.

Spanish-language comedies set in London housing estates do not come one's way often, so for novelty's sake alone the

## 'Mouthwatering'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

□ **THE LOST WORLD** Damian Samuels, 20: A film of epic proportions that quite frankly knocked my socks off.

Tim Thornton, 21: Pure mauling for money.

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 18: You don't perhaps expect deep, complex characterisation, but Julianne Moore managed it.

Sarah Crook, 18: The most enjoyable film of the year.

□ **LADY AND THE TRAMP** Damian: Watch out for the witty bingo scene.

Tim: A groovy little comedy.

Sarah: An excellent performance from James Fleet.

## SNAP VERDICT

Leslie: You'd be barking mad to miss it.

Sarah: I was deeply touched by its innocence.

□ **THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT** Damian: Watch out for the witty bingo scene.

Tim: A groovy little comedy.

Sarah: An excellent performance from James Fleet.

## NEW ON VIDEO

## Space worth watching

### ■ DARK STAR

*Fabulous, PG, 1974*  
MADE just before science fiction films grew top-heavy with special effects and self-importance, John Carpenter's wonderful comedy about spaced-out spacemen cursed with a troublesome ship bounces along with absurd humour, economical set designs and old-style élan. Carpenter began work on it as a film school project; after it, the big time beckoned.

### ■ BOUND

*Fox Guild, 18, 1996*  
TWO screenwriting brothers turned directors, Larry and Andy Wachowski, make a flashy bid for cult status with this breezy movie that tries to disguise standard, grubby thriller about gangsters, molls and Mafia money with fancy close-ups, designer violence, and the posturings of two sultry lesbians. Attention may be grabbed for a time by the Wachowskis' cheek, as well as Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon checking out each other's tattoos. But not for long. Available to rent.

### ■ DRACULA: DEAD AND LOVING IT

*PolyGram, PG, 1996*  
TIME and fashion has passed Mel Brooks's burlesque comedy by, but the maestro does not seem to have noticed. This is his latest attempt to recapture the glory days of *Blazing Saddles*. Leslie Nielsen, dressed in a fruity white wig, is the blundering bloodsucking hero, who falls downstairs on his first appearance. Marginally better than its predecessor, *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, although the heavy humour and ponderous cutting still make the film seem an antique. A rental release.

### ■ MOTHER NIGHT

*Entertainment, 15, 1996*  
ABSORBING adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut Jr's novel, with Nick Nolte as an American

writer in the 1930s who agrees to masquerade as a Nazi sympathiser and pays the consequences after the war. Director Keith Gordon does nothing to ease us over the jolting shifts from comedy to drama, but he still treats his

difficult material carefully, and draws the best from his cast. Nolte is excellent; John Goodman, Sheryl Lee and Alan Arkin also stand out in Vonnegut's parade of devious humanity. Available to rent.

### ■ RANSOM

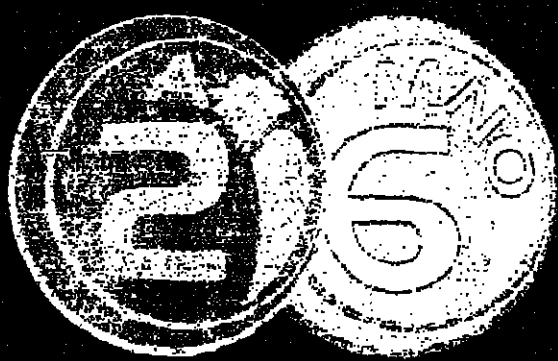
*Buena Vista, 18, 1996*  
MEL GIBSON'S millionaire airline boss finds his son kidnapped by Gary Sinise, and goes on TV to offer a fat reward for the kidnapper's head. The script, derived from a TV play and film from the mid-1950s, gives the main characters lots of shading, and the director, Ron Howard, knows enough to hire actors alert to subtleties. Tension sags halfway through, then the play of character and psychology puts the film back on track. Available to rent.



Mel Gibson leaps into action in the hit thriller *Ransom*

GEOFF BROWN

## BOOKING BY PHONE?



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## LONDON

**ALMEIDA OPERA:** The contemporary opera continues with the British premiere of Händel's *Alcina*, an original piece of music theatre exploring desire. The work fuses rock, jazz, classical and contemporary music.

**ROMAN BRITAIN:** Archaeological treasures dating back to the Roman occupation of Britain will be on display for the first time in the magnificent new Weston Gallery which opens today at the British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (0171-636 1666). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 10am-5pm.

**THE LEMNIA TRILOGY:** Family life is no bed of roses in the Cornish village of Lemnia. McDonagh's *Trilogy* is a mother from hell and her desperate daughter. The *Beauty Queen of Lemnia*, first seen in London last year, marked a new era in the Cornish village. A *Beauty Queen* in Cornish, a pair of squabbling brothers living alone in their dead father's house (*The Lonesome West*). *Trilogy* on Sat, Beauty, 1pm; *Shut*, 4pm; *Lonesome*, 8pm.

**JUST BRECHT:** After a successful run at Hampstead, New End Theatre's German actress Eva Meier brings a programme of poems and songs by her companion, Bertolt Brecht, to London for a three-week run. Accompanied on the piano by the young Irish pianist Conor Lenahan, she sings the songs of the dramatist's famous songs set to music by Kurt Weill and Hans Eisler. *Just Brecht*, Upper Street, N1 (0171-259 1818). Opens tonight, 8pm.

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

## ELSEWHERE

**EXETER:** The Heath Ensemble plays a new production of *The Tempest*, featuring a cast of local actors. The production is directed by Michael, Reports: Dubouey. Between and Francis. Church of the Holy Cross, Crediton (01322 49123). 7.30pm.

**PORT WILLIAM:** Scottish Ballet ends its four-week tour of Scotland here.



The rock duo Orbital play the Phoenix Festival

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre shows in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

Successful than Pan Gern's play.

Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, 2.30pm.

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM:** Rachel Kavanagh's delightful production, set in the comedy and the mystery of Shakespeare's play.

Queen's Park, NW1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm.

**THE BLUE GARDEN:** Ted Craig directs Jan Waters and Amanda Meehan in a new play by Peter Meehan, set in 1940 to which a refugee from Europe comes for shelter.

Wendover, Dringwell Road, East Croydon (01885 4050). Tue, 6.30pm; Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm; mat, 2.30pm.

**THE HEMLOCK BEES:** Peter Whelan's scintillating play. David Duxbury plays Shakespeare's daughter and Christopher Hunter her Puritan inquisitor.

Business, Cornhill Street, WC2 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, 2.30pm.

**KING LEAR:** Richard Hunter goes where no English actor has before, into the life of Shakespeare's suffering monarch in a modern dress, written and produced by Richard Hunter.

Young Vic, 65 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 5553). Mon-Sat, 7pm; mat, 2.30pm.

**MARLBOROUGH:** Sam Phillips gives an atmospheric performance as the singer with the golden throat dress. More

tonight. The evening includes a performance of Lorna Scott's new piece *Tom O'Shanahan*, based on Robert Burns's poem, and *Vagabond*, influenced by Verdi's opera *Il Trovatore*. *Marlborough* at the Ald (01797 700707). 7.30pm.

**KENT:** Bring a picnic and something to sit on for an evening of magic as Opera Bono gives the first of three performances here of Verdi's masterpiece, *La Traviata*. The intimacy of one of England's most romantic gardens forms the perfect setting for Nicholas Bon's new production. *Traviata* at the Ald (01797 700707). Tonight, Sat and Sun, 7.30pm.

**WARWICKSHIRE:** One of the high points in the summer rock diary, the Phoenix Festival opens its gates today. Artists representing a wide range of styles will perform on eight stages, with one arena stage entirely devoted to comedy. *Warwickshire* at the Ald (01797 700707). Tonight, Sat and Sun, 7.30pm.

## LONDON GALLERIES

British Library Galleries Designers Bookbinders (0171-323 7111)

Design Museum, The Power of Erotic Design (0171-378 6552). Dalwood

Picture Stephen Cox (0181-890 5254)

Karoline Schabert, Caldwell

Murphy (0171-531 0211)

Leighton House: The Light House (0171-492 3316). Lanyon, London

Martin (0171-724 7739). National

Seurat and the Barbers (0171-747 2885). Robert Price, London

Harrod (0171-918 5059). Teller

Elsworth Kelly (0171-887 8000)

Whitechapel, Cathy de Monchaux (0171-522 7888)

## Old boy network

Back in 1953 the hero and heroine of Sandy Wilson's *Boy Friend* sang that all they wanted was a wee nest in WC1: "I'll be sitting, and I'll be knitting, and so contented we'll be, in our dear little room in Bloomsbury." Well, 12 years later the same composer-brettish brought back the same characters in another musical and money had spoiled things. There is not a lot of sitting and certainly no knitting in *Divorce Me, Darling*. Instead, there is the hint of a brush with the ghost of a thought of adultery amid the curvy stairs, tubular columns and Art Deco palm trees of the Hotel Paradis, Nice.

I am a fan of *The Boy Friend*. Given a drink too many, I can intone impressive chunks of *A Room in Bloomsbury*.

**Divorce Me, Darling**  
Chichester

*bury, It's Never Too Late to Fall in Love, and Fancy Forgetting.* But even Paul Kerrison's splendidly lively, colourful revival failed to convince me that the sequel matches the original as 1920s pastiche or, for that matter, as anything except an excuse for energetic singing and dancing.

The problem, I think, is that where there should be a plot there are multiple holes. Hole one contains Ruth Henshall's Polly and Tim Flavin's Bobby, old chums temporarily escaping their busy, distracted spouses. There is a smile, an offstage dinner, a glass of champagne on balconies, but nothing "silly".

Then her husband and his wife unexpectedly materialise in the forms of Andrew Halliday and Rosemarie Ford. You wait for the inevitable misunderstandings to deepen — after all, you have a couple of twinkles and all is joy again. You must not expect marital disillusion or ennu.

So what can you expect? Well, more dramatic holes.

Three soubrettes on a spree turn up, followed by three husbands who think their wives are in England and are themselves on the razzle; but that leads nowhere. The hotel manager gets off with his receptionist. Tony's sister does ditto with a blimp called flithering-fitch.

Sailors flirt with sailresses, as does a maid with a waiter. So much curiosity, unmediated love-play occurs that if the Chichester ushers had jumped onstage and started canoodling with the box-office staff, we would have been surprised.

That's by no means all. Joan



All decked out: Lilliane Montevetti is terrific as a crooner swathed in jungle prints

Savage inexplicably struts onstage, wearing a Girl Scout uniform, trailing a cheery husband, and doing a cheeky imitation of Wodehouse's fascist Spode. Peter Edbrook appears in cinema-commissioner garb as the President of Monomania, and there is some hanky-panky involving him and Polly's Dad, who is a Mr Brown disguised as a Mr Jones and the husband of a nightclub singer called Madame K; but this particular hole is so inscrutable that 100 Yorkshire miners could not penetrate it.

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## Fairy Tales

## Drift Hall

seem to be saying: we just want to love, just want to tell our folks about our lovers, just don't want to be hit by homophobes. Audiences coming to this show, whether gay, lesbian or not, will be endorsing the message.

Yet at the same time the songs present sentiments and behaviour as pure as the six stripes radiating from a point above the singers' heads, as though they are appealing for our approval. "I'm looking for Mr Right not Mr Right Away" sings Jason Nolan, nicely expressing his hope for true love. Barnes finds a neat rhyme for the 50th State of the Union, when

Nicholas Pound dances on with flowers around his neck to explain that "We're open-minded and that's why we / Don't give a hula if you're gay."

Julia Early and Rachel Spry make a costly witty double-act, by contrast, Gareth Snook expresses eloquent tenderness in the exquisite song of parting, *Hummingbird*.

Only Christians of the Burn-a-Fag-for-Jesus sects make Barnes angry, but even their offences are contained within the privacy of a family mourning the death of a son "mistaken" — the usual waddle — by an older man. Ken Caswell's direction is decent enough, and the sight of a gentle cowboy fanning himself with his hat is a masterpiece. But I wanted more aggression, more in-your-face coarseness. In a word, more indigo.

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Meeting a new master

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# 'It's not books that corrupt'

A novel about heroin has won a prize for children's literature. Nicolette Jones asks teenagers for their reaction to the book

On first glance it seems a misguided decision. Yesterday at the South Bank London Library Association Carnegie Award for "an outstanding book for children" was presented to Melvin Burgess for *Junk* (Hodden Press), a novel about two 14-year-olds who are seduced by heroin.

The book was selected from a shortlist that has already stirred media objections (in, among others, *The Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*) to the darkness of its subject which included arm, bullying, and the death of a child on an operating table. A similar keffle ensued in 1993 when Robert Swindell's novel *Stone Cold* won the prize: it concerned a serial killer who preyed on the homeless.

Some people are clearly worried that a prize awarded, during its 61 years of existence, to the likes of Arthur Ransome, Walter de la Mare, Mary Norton and C.S. Lewis should honour books about these grim subjects. But the truth is that not one of its year's shortlisted books is sensationalist or irresponsible. It is a mistake to take umbrage without reading them. And the librarians judges of the prize, 13 members of the Youth Libraries Group, insist that this year, as every year, they all read every one of the 50 nominations. These judges are experts in children's books. They know what children actually read, at just what adults think they should. And this year the judges were specifically encouraged to test out books on children they knew, and consider their responses.

Why were the librarians judges looking for it? At one point, their guidelines say: "According to the genre, the book and the age of the child reader, the plot should be

constructive in the sense that it produces a sense of having extended knowledge [or] emotional capacity, taking the reader a step forward, even, occasionally, into a disturbed state."

The guidelines also declare that the judges will be "not afraid" of difficult or controversial subjects. But they add: "We are not looking for political correctness, or issues. The winner has to be a good book, over any other consideration." They certainly do not believe that the books on their shortlist are either depressing or at all damaging to young readers.

And that view seems to be confirmed by the reaction of the children who have been involved in a remarkable "parallel" judging operation set up when the shortlist was announced in the spring. For some eight years the Carnegie has encouraged schools all over the country to "shadow" its adjudicators, inviting them to read and appraise the shortlist and submit their own winner. Many of the schools have made the most of this suggestion, building extracurricular activities around the judging which have gone imaginatively well beyond its brief.

One such school is Wolverley High School in Kidderminster, Worcestershire, a mixed state secondary. Fifty pupils volunteered to join in the shadowing. 15 (aged between 15 and 17) were selected. They not only read and discussed the books, they also prepared a dramatic episode from each to perform to Year 9 pupils, who were also then invited to vote for the best book on the basis of the dramatization. Eighty per cent of Wolverley's Year 9 (15-year-olds, at whom the book is aimed) voted for *Junk*.

By the time the children "shadowers" met to choose their own

winner (with highly commended and commended runners-up), they had not only read the books, they had also discussed character, dialogue, themes and plot. They had spent 18 hours of their own free time in rehearsal for the dramatizations. They had thought about the books more than most schoolchildren think about their set texts. And they knew what they liked.

They thought that Elizabeth Laird's *Secret Friends*, aimed at eight to nine-year-olds and all about bullying, "dealt with grief really well". This was the book in which a child dies on an operating table. But there was no doubt about which book commanded their universal admiration: it was Burgess's *Junk*.

They loved its multiple viewpoints, its undidactic tone, its

truthfulness. One girl, Andrea, said: "It has to be one of the best books I've read." Several pointed out that *Junk* is an unusual book about heroin addiction, in that it captures what attracts children to drugs — the glamour — and then tells the whole story. "At the end," said another pupil, Janis, "you have the complete picture."

Their discussion answered many of the objections to the judges' choice. Did they think its 14-year-old protagonists were too young? "We live near Birmingham," said Kerri. "We know that there are 11 and 12-year-olds sleeping rough on the streets there. The drug problem threatens children that young. And the book helped you to sympathise with them."

Is it suitable for children? Kerri thought that very young readers might be upset by some of the scenes. "But adults seem to think that if children don't know about drugs they won't do it. But we do know about it. We get to know from other sources."

Are they any more likely to take drugs because of reading it? "If you read *Junk* you don't have to go and try taking drugs to find out about it," said one pupil. Another felt that reading the book was "so much more effective than having a teacher lecturing you".

Did they think it a potentially harmful read? "Being naive is more dangerous," said Louise. "It's not books which corrupt people," said Janis. "It's other people."

Then they voted unanimously for *Junk* as the outright winner. At that

stage, they did not know that the adult judges would also choose it. "They'll probably go for something gentler, but if they don't choose it they would be covering up the fact that a really good book could be useful," was one opinion. "Children should be given a chance to think for themselves," was another.

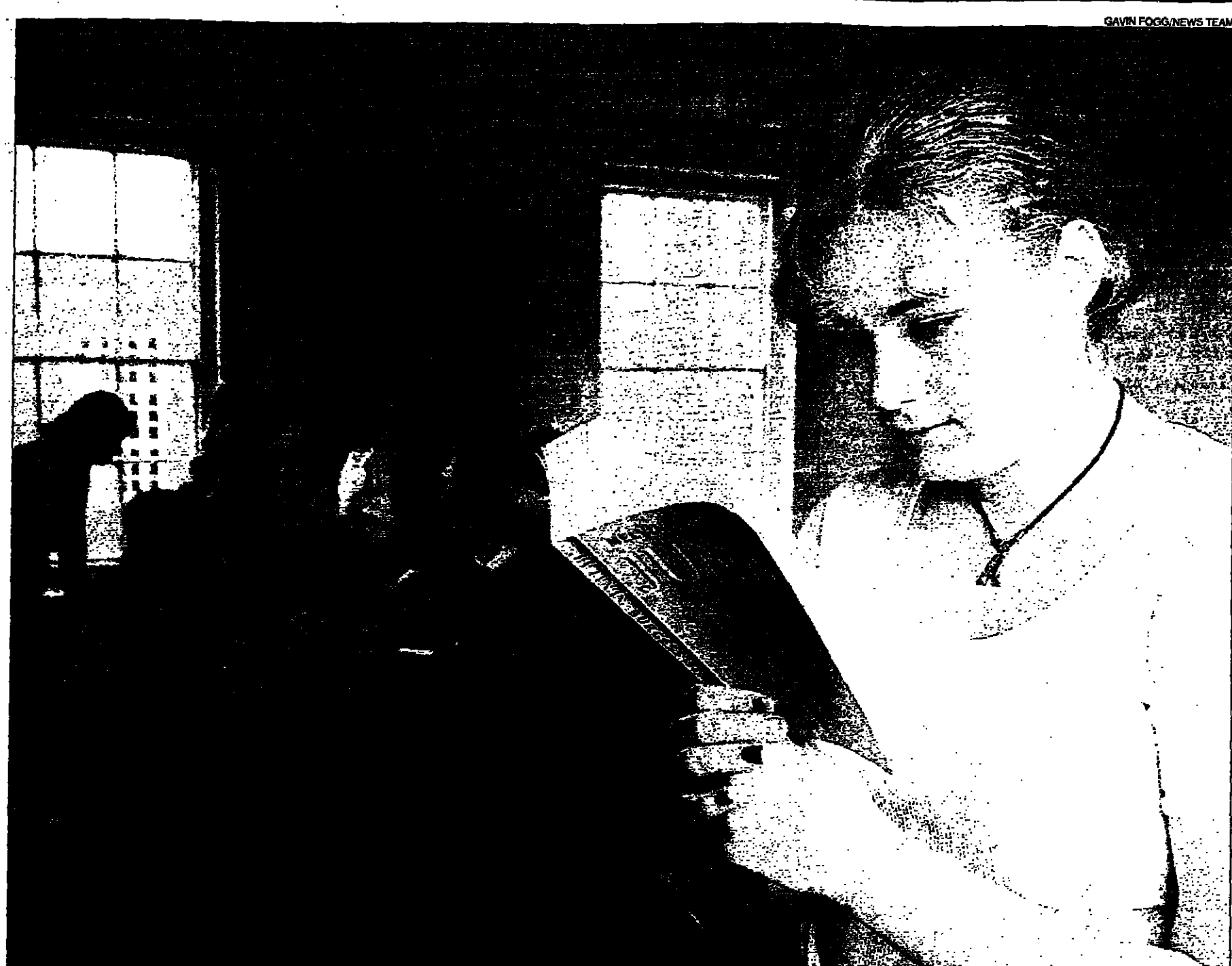
The argument for *Junk*'s merits could not have been put better by the author himself, although he has painful experience of drug abuse at rather closer quarters: his brother was a heroin addict. "I think it's best if children don't hear about drugs for the first time from someone who is trying to sell them some," says Burgess. "Forewarned is forearmed."

He is not alone in thinking this. Anna Lubelska, co-ordinator of the Drug Education Forum at the

National Children's Bureau, says: "I believe that *Junk* should be part of every secondary school's drug education programme."

That is already starting to happen. Wolverley High School is now considering using *Junk* as one of its set texts in the classroom. And one of the pupils on the Carnegie panel has decided to stay on at school, instead of leaving to go to performing arts college, expressly in order to be able to join in next year's shadowing.

The pupils say that the whole experience expanded their range of reading and increased their wish to read for pleasure. It would seem that this year's Carnegie has already been a successful venture in encouraging literacy — and that *Junk* has already done much more good than harm.



Out of darkness: a pupil at Wolverley High School, Kidderminster, reads Melvin Burgess's *Junk*, about two 14-year-old children who become addicted to heroin

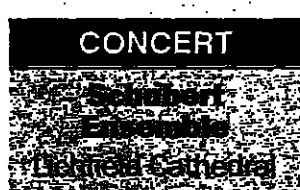
Architecturally enchanting though it is, the Lady Chapel at the east end of Lichfield Cathedral does not have the most favourable acoustic for chamber music. It could be worse, however: the back of the high altar forms a kind of reflective screen behind the performers and, while much of the sound seeps through the exquisite Gothic carving into the nave or drifts up to the high vaulted roof, useful and distinctively spiritualised proportion of it does penetrate to the audience.

It depends too on the sensitivity of the musicians involved. If neither Mendelssohn's Piano Quartet in B minor, Op. 3, nor Brahms's in A major, Op. 26, was well chosen for the surroundings — one can imagine Messiaen's *Quatuor* here — the Schubert Ensemble of London was very

## Opportunity for reflection

conscious of the problems. Although the strings could probably have been more assertive in the Mendelssohn to compensate for the attenuation in the sound at the front of the platform, textural clarity was most conscientiously and effectively well preserved.

It is a pity that the 15-year-old composer didn't wait until he was at least 30 before writing what was to be the longest finale in all his chamber works, but it was fascinating to hear how much of the mature musician was already formed, and already



(before the *Midsummer Night's Dream* overture) irresistible.

The other work in the programme was one of the rare items of new music to be heard at the Lichfield Festival these days. Commissioned by the Schubert Ensemble of

London, John Woolrich's piano quartet, *Sestina*, turned out to be ideally written for the circumstances.

The ear, drawn into the atmosphere by the strings, was initially in fear of inappropriate sound from the piano, but the gentle chord clusters associated with its first entry were reassuringly in place. The poetry was sustained to the end, passing through formative but only vaguely defined allusions to music by other composers (helpfully identified by Woolrich as Debussy, Schubert, Beethoven, Schumann and Stravinsky) to a fairly clear echo of the Monteverdi madrigal which not only gave the work its name, but which also fitted it so convincingly to the scene of its first performance.

GERALD LARNER

NEWCLASSICAL CDs: Simple opera; fine Weber; Russian piano sensation

## Getting the giggles on the ramparts

Jon Higgins

■ **BOIELDIEU** *La Dame blanche* Massis/Bake/Rouchetour/Naouri/Ensemble Orchestre de Paris/Minkowski EMI 5 8555 2 (two CDs), £30.99

BOIELDIEU'S *White Lady* is a ghost which stalks the castle ramparts at midnight. Inevitably she turns out to be flesh and blood and sings in the soprano register. Add hidden treasure and a few secret corridors to a plot which Scribble cobbled together from a couple of *Valter Scott* novels, and *La dame blanche* becomes one to the odd giggle. Nonetheless it nipped up more than 100 performances at the Opéra Comique in Paris during their 40 years of its life in the 1st century.

That was mainly due to Boieldieu's score: simple and a bit repetitive, but very melodic and highly singable given the right cast. IMI has turned in the vengeful American tenor Rockwell Blake for the high-

lying role of Georges Brown, who returns from the Stuart wars in amnesiac state. Georges recovers his marbles with the help of the Scottish folksong *Robin Adair* and also gets an attractive aria early on. Blake's voice is past its prime but he has a game shot at a part which really needs a light lyric tenor. Two young French singers are better: Annick Massis (who makes her Glyndebourne debut in *Le Comte Ory* on Sunday) as the *White Lady*, and Laurent Naouri as the villain. Very lively conducting from Marc Minkowski.

■ **WEBER** *Clarinet Concertos 1 & 2* Concertino; Clarinet Quintet Krikkou/Finland RSO/Oramo Ondine ODE 895-2, £14.49

JUST as Mozart had his Stadler, and Brahms his Möhlfeld, so Weber had an inspirational clarinetist acquaintance. In the latter case, it was Heinrich Joseph Bärmann (composer of the Adagio long attributed to Wagner), who drew from Weber three concertino works in a single year, 1811. The two concertos, in F

minor and E flat major, along with the Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra, Op. 26, can all be heard on this highly recommended disc, in which the soloist is the young Finnish virtuoso Karl Krikkou. His refined tone and virtuosity — the twin attributes mentioned in contemporary accounts of Bärmann — would surely have inspired Weber too: this is playing of quite exceptional quality by a master of the instrument.

The Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Krikkou's compatriot Sakari Oramo, Rattle's appointed successor in Birmingham, though by way of a filler there is also a fine performance of Weber's Clarinet Quintet in B flat major, where Krikkou is joined by the New Helsinki Quartet.

■ **VOLODOS** *Piano Transcriptions* Arcadi Volodos Sony SK 62691 £15.49

THE piano flavour of this month — and perhaps even longer, who knows? — is the 25-year-old Russian pianist Arcadi Volodos, a healthily late developer who recently made his Wigmore Hall de-

but, and has now been snapped up by Sony.

For his recording debut, nothing too solemn too soon: Volodos will alienate himself from purists and endear himself to transcription addicts in a recital which moves from daringly bold performances of two unpublished pieces by Vladimir Horowitz to Volodos's own decorative musings on two Rachmaninov songs.

Volodos's initial studies as a singer prepared him well for Liszt's Schubert transcriptions. One can almost taste the excitement of the invisible words in *Aufenthalt* and *Liebesbotschaft*, two wonderful examples of the power of transcription to metamorphose one composer's response to another, and liberate an entirely new creation.

Cziffra's totally manic transcription of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Bumblebee* is outdone only by Samuel Feinberg's outrageous antics with the Scherzo of Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony. Here, Volodos's playing would have been enhanced by a touch more fancy, and something of the brilliance and sheer flair he brings to his own transcription of Mozart's *Turkish March*.

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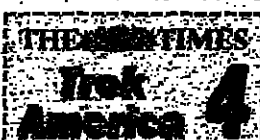
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Terry Waite looks back in anguish at his time in captivity and reflects upon the issues that lie at the heart of terrorism

## An unbroken circle of violence

**HEZBOLLAH**  
Born with a Vengeance  
By Hala Jaber  
Fourth Estate, £18.99  
ISBN 1 85702 381 1

Shortly after my release from captivity in Beirut I agreed to be interviewed by Michael Burke for the BBC. We sat together in the library of the Travellers. The conversation turned towards the unusually unpleasant intrigue that had surrounded my attempts and the attempts of others to release hostages.

"Mr Waite," he said, "Was there never a time during your negotiations when you felt out of your depth?"

"Michael," I replied, "There was never a time when I felt in my depth."

Five years have passed since that interview. Ten since the full force of intrigue hit me with a blow that was to propel me back to Lebanon in a vain attempt to retrieve the broken threads of a doomed intervention.

Time is a great healer but the passing of the years does not erase the pain totally. When Hala Jaber, the author of this succinct analysis of the history and development of Hezbollah, first asked to see me I stalled, even though Terry Anderson urged me to see her. Now, with her book lying on my desk for review, I experience the same reluctance to re-visit old memories.

Within its pages is a grim black and white photograph of the "Hostage Hilton" in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

This unfinished school, later used as a barracks, was where I, along with other Western hos-

tages, was kept for the first weeks of my incarceration. This one picture brings memories flooding back to me. Memories of double-dealing, deceit and a loneliness that was so acute it was almost palpable. I remember, too, the utter bewilderment which I felt when relatives of yet another Western hostage would come to see me at Lambeth Palace in a desperate attempt to get someone to do something on their behalf.

Ms Jaber notes that a total of 17 different phantoms claimed responsibility for the abductions ranging from "Islamic Dawn" to "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine". That was one of the first problems I had to tackle. Who exactly was responsible for the abductions? Was there one overall group operating through a series of interdependent units and in pursuit of a common goal, or was it simply a series of kidnappings organised by groups with either a loose attachment, or no attach-

ment to one another?

When finally I was able to establish face-to-face contact (albeit blindfolded) with a group of the kidnapers, they would only admit and supply evidence that they held a small group of American hostages and certainly would not tell me whom they represented.

In tracing the history of Hezbollah, Ms Jaber, with her first-hand expert knowledge of the region, illustrates the multi-faceted strategies deployed by the principal actors in the ongoing drama: Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Palestine, Israel and of course a whole gamut of Western powers. It is this very fact that made, and continues to make, the political problems and consequent disasters facing the people of the region so complicated and difficult to analyse.

In attempting to find an entry point into the problem, certain highly placed informants assured me that the key to the hostage



"Hostage Hilton", where Waite and McCarthy were held

problem lay with Iran. Others, with equal conviction, urged me to develop contacts in Syria and of course in Lebanon itself. Ms Jaber does a creditable job in attempting to examine the role of the different players, not only in relation to the hostage crisis but to the general politics of the region, and admits that there remains a considerable area of uncertainty as to "who did what".

The "truth" of events is, of course, interpreted in a variety of ways according to the position and

perception of the observer. There is no one "truth" about the situation in Lebanon. The various players acted and interacted one with another and the strands woven across the years have not always made an intelligent pattern.

This difficulty is well illustrated by an interview Ms Jaber conducted with the Shiite doctor who was used by the kidnapers as an intermediary and whom I met on several occasions.

His memory of events in which I was a participant differs radically from my own. Is he telling the truth as he honestly remembers it, or is he suffering from that failure of accurate recollection that unfortunately afflicts all of us sooner or later?

I have no doubt whatsoever that he is totally mistaken and that the more likely reason for his version of events is that he is attempting to paint himself in the best possible light, given the fact that he found himself in such an exposed position.

One of the significant values of this book is what it tells us about the movement of so-called "terrorist" movements. The author tells us that members of Hezbollah reacted strongly against being called terrorists. Indeed they did and they often told me so. If we take it that the root of the world is terror and that a terrorist may be described as anyone who attempts to further his or her views by the use of coercive intimidation, then perhaps the grounds for objection begin to weaken.

At the same time, given some of the actions alleged to have been committed by Israel, America,

Syria and the other players in the region, can anyone escape this designation? Like the tragedy in Ireland, the acts of Hezbollah extend back into distant history. They involve a group of people with little or no political or economic power, united by a common religion and gradually driven into an extreme position. The graphic accounts in the book of "terrorist" attacks where individuals have been convicted of their immediate heavenly reward are a chilling reminder of the power of religious ideology to motivate the most inhuman of actions. It is the very terror itself, which is committed by apathies, that eventually takes over and clouds the root issues.

I have long argued that terrorism is but symptomatic of much deeper disorders in society. One of the problems is that the state and mistrust caused by terrorism prevents anyone from getting to the fundamental issues.

At the end of her informative book Ms Jaber states what she sees as the fundamental issue succinctly: "So long as the West and Israel continue to regard the problem [of Hezbollah] as a crusade against terrorism they are in fact laying their own responsibility for fostering the conditions which have led to Hezbollah, but as long as Israel continues to defy the international decree which calls for the end of its presence in South Lebanon, there is very little hope that their violence will end."

## Making a movie of his life

Nicholas Wapshott on the dark secrets of the father of film noir

The reputation of Fritz Lang as a master of early German cinema is largely overshadowed nowadays by his Hollywood years, when he brought psychological depth and visual artistry to a succession of American film themes, including the crime thriller and the western. But while he is revered as the father of film noir — where would Orson Welles have been without him? — it is his German work that ensures his place as a giant of the cinema.

There were other Germans and, like Lang, Austrians breaking startling new ground in the early years of the century, among them Ernst Lubitsch, F.W. Murnau, Georg Pabst and Josef von Sternberg. But few can match Lang's work at its best. *Dr Mabuse*, the *Gambler* (1922), *Metropolis* (1927) and *M* (1931) are benchmarks in film-making and among Germany's most important 20th-century works of art.

Yet despite Lang's pre-eminence, there has been a reluctance to grant him the credit he deserves. The French critics may love his dark, pulp films, but other Europeans tend to regret that he so quickly assimilated himself into the American way of storytelling, that his Hollywood films rarely give a hint of the full gothic extravagance of his German work. But more damaging to Lang's reputation is the questioning of the events surrounding his departure from Germany under Nazism. He was torn between his mother, who was Jewish, and his wife, who became a party member, and he is accused, at the least, of not leaving Germany quickly enough.

Was Lang soft on the Nazis? Did Goebbels ask him to lead the Nazi film industry? Patrick McGilligan's judgment of Lang's behaviour at the most dramatic turning point of his career displays a respect for the truth which few movie biographers attempt. And his verdict on Lang is mixed.

Lang liked to tell a story about his last night in Germany. He was

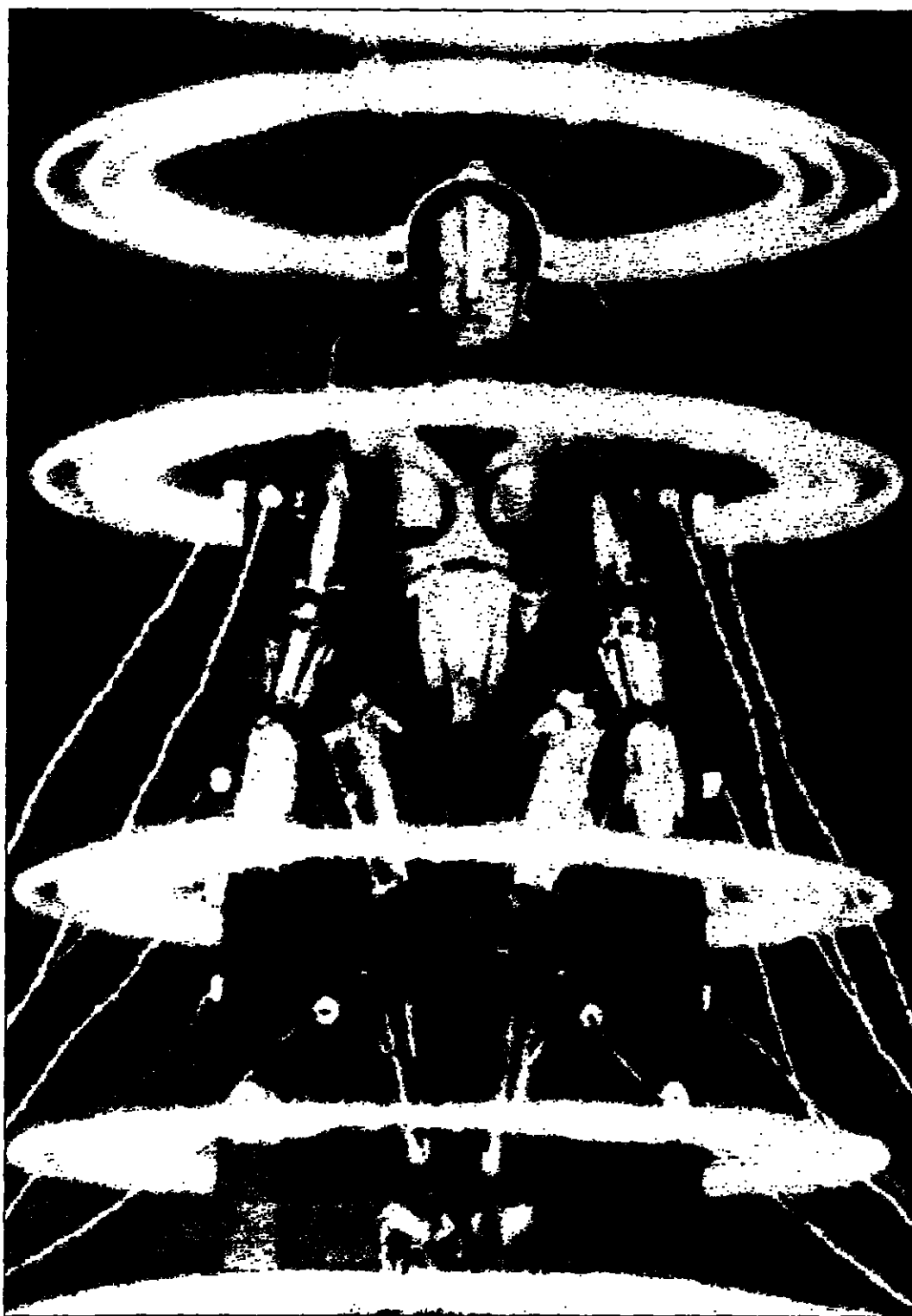
summoned by Joseph Goebbels to a meeting in the propaganda ministry. Goebbels began explaining why his new film, *The Last Will of Dr Mabuse*, needed a few cuts and insertions to bring it up to Nazi standards. Lang felt intimidated, angry and anxious. Then out of the blue Goebbels asked Lang to head up the Nazi film industry. Lang avoided making a decision there and then and decided instead he must leave the country without delay. As he sat sweating in his chair, he realised that the banks were shutting. And so, penniless and in fear of his life, he slipped onto the night train to Paris to the start of a life in exile.

Fritz Lang told the tale as if it were a movie. The setting, Goebbels' cavernous and starkly furnished office, is pure German Expressionism: the plot echoes the heightened drama of the psychological thriller Lang made his own. But reading the con-

fricting accounts of the incident brought together by McGilligan it is difficult not to come to the conclusion that Lang was dressing up denial as hyperbole. There is little evidence the meeting took place at all; Goebbels did not think the encounter worth entering in his diary. And far from leaving the country immediately and penniless, it seems Lang took his time arranging his affairs before leaving Germany for good.

While those in Hollywood who remembered Lang from Germany always harboured their doubts about him, his ambiguous brush with Nazism did him no apparent harm in the industry. He worked consistently and well. The subjects handed down to him by studio executives suited him and he always enriched them with a psychological complexity which eluded others. This well-written account of Lang's life does credit to the career as a whole and offers an intelligent and persuasive argument to look again at Lang's films with a feeling of anticipation.

**FRITZ LANG**  
The Nature of the Beast  
By Patrick McGilligan  
Faber, £20  
ISBN 0 571 9075 4



*Metropolis*: such scenes influenced a tradition of dark pulp fiction in art, film and video

Jonathan Kirsch, a Los Angeles lawyer and book reviewer, has had the bright idea of bringing together and discussing some of those biblical stories which priests and rabbis and Sunday School teachers prefer to pass over in silence: the incest of Lot and his daughters, the rape of Tamar by her brother Amnon, the mysterious episode of God's seeking to kill Moses and being bought off by the quick thinking of his wife, who cuts off her son's foreskin and throws it at the avenging deity, and many others.

His method is to retell the story first in his own words and then to devote a chapter to an analysis of its meaning and implications. Drawing on a wide range of scholarship, he brings out well how, over the centuries, the keepers of the tradition have sought to soften the impact of these stories and sometimes to censor them out altogether. He is particularly good, as one might expect, at disentangling the legal implications of many of the biblical terms and episodes, and at bringing out how different readings serve different political agendas.

Thus with the story of how Jacob's sons Simeon and Levi take their revenge on Hamor and Shechem for the "rape" of their sister Dinah, the Bible clearly condemns them through the mouth of their father; but revisionist scholars, especially in Israel, have argued

## The Bible bashed

Gabriel Josipovici

THE HARLOT BY THE  
SIDE OF THE ROAD  
Forbidden Tales of the Bible

By Jonathan Kirsch  
Rider, £17.99  
ISBN 0 7126 7209 5

that Jacob is mealy-mouthed and that Simeon and Levi are to be praised for their single-minded desire to avenge their sister. The Bible, suggests Kirsch, in fact offers us "two visions of the stranger and two approaches to dealing with him: one that exhorts us to make war, the other that encourages us to make peace and even, as the story of Dinah and Shechem may suggest, make love."

The trouble is that by relentlessly seeking out the sexual implications of what the Bible recounts, Kirsch too often trivialises these stories. This becomes painfully evident in

his retelling of the stories, which is almost embarrassingly banal. "Amnon relaxed his grip ever so slightly, then nuzzled sharply on her arm, and Tamar tumbled headfirst into his bed. He rolled on top of her, pinning her long legs with his own legs and pressing down on her hips with his own hips. Soon, only her head was free, and she whipped back and forth like a snake." The Bible merely has, "And when she had brought [the cakes] near unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, 'Come, with me, my sister.' And she answered him: 'Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel.'"

It is not just that the style Kirsch adopts is so Mills and Boonish: it is that the very fact of turning biblical narrative into a modern novel, draws us into the psychology of the characters and loses precisely what is so rich, both artistically and theologically, about the spare objective narrative of the Bible.

His mentors, he readily acknowledges, are Harold Bloom, the author of *The Book of J*, and Jack Miles, the author of *God, A Biography*, both of them books which have the same virtues and failings as his own. His third mentor is Joseph Heller, the author of *God Knows*, that wonderful novel about King David which manages to avoid nearly all the pitfalls of the genre. Interested readers should start there.

## Some are less equal

Amanda Craig

PIG TALES  
By Marie Darrieussecq  
Translated by Linda Coverdale  
Faber, £9.99  
ISBN 0 571 91886 X

METAMORPHOSIS has been a feature of novels since literature began; but the 20th century, for obvious reasons, has been more fascinated by it than most. Kafka's masterpiece is the greatest of 20th-century fables, but here is a best-selling French version by Marie Darrieussecq.

*Pig Tales* is narrated by a young woman who works in a massage parlour. Her burgeoning pig-flesh is at first appreciated by her clients, who indulge in "farmyard ways", and enable her to not only bring home the bacon but feast on flowers — a rarity, in a future of euros and social breakdown.

Eventually, the "poor dumb creature" becomes too porky to poke. She poses for a political poster "Take a perfectly healthy girl... have her gain a smidgen of weight, like her and you'll see what I mean!" then disappears, first into the underground, then to a lunatic asylum, while her country erupts in corruption and cruelty. Finding love with a werewolf, she remains unenlightened but eventually prefers to stay as a pig in order to enjoy life in the country.

As far as a feminist issue, we may read into *Pig Tales* any number of tiresome messages which, with the rise of models like Sophie Dahl, now look somewhat dated. Women

undergo a natural metamorphosis during pregnancy: it is what happens inside the head that is more interesting. We are left with a book that has neither the bite of satire nor the swish of pornography.

What is really objectionable about *Pig Tales* is the absence of beauty and pity which, as Nabokov observed, is the hall-mark of *The Metamorphosis*. Where Kafka's story minutely details the essentially insect-like patterns of behaviour and indifference within a petit-bourgeois family, Darrieussecq has nothing new to say about lust and our animal nature.

Her combination of erotica, intellectual pretentiousness and melodrama is, dare we say it, peculiarly French. It is something the British reader will unerringly detect as pure hogwash.

Amanda Craig's *A Vicious Circle* is published in paperback by Fourth Estate, priced £5.99.

## Dangers of the people's sovereignty

Robert Black

EDMUND BURKE  
His Life and Legacy  
Edited by Ian Croft  
Fleurbaey Press, £3  
ISBN 1 85182 306 9

EDMUND BURKE AND  
OUR PRESENT  
DISCONTENTS

By Jim McCue  
Clarendon Press, £14.95  
ISBN 1 87026 176 6

EDMUND BURKE  
By Conor Cruise O'Brien  
Abridged by Jim McCue  
Stclair-Stewartson, £12.4  
ISBN 1 85039 088 4

This is the bicentenary of Burke's death. A number of books are being published to mark the occasion and a commemorative party has been given by the Burke Society in the Speaker's House by courtesy of the occupier. Burke is generally regarded as a great parliamentarian, though in his day he was far from commanding the attention of his colleagues. He spoke at immense length in a strong Irish brogue, and became known as the Dinner Bell, because Members filed off for food and drink when he rose to his feet in the evening. But greater men and orators have had the same experience. Winston Churchill in the 1930s often found himself addressing empty benches.

Jim McCue, who writes for *The Times*, is a notable Burkean expert. He has edited and abridged in paperback the splendid life by Conor Cruise O'Brien, whose Irish and political background made him such a perceptive biographer. The quintessence is there, but one regrets the excision of the enjoyable correspondence between the author and Sir Isaac Bertin.

McCue is himself author of an excellent book, the title derived from Burke's *Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents* (1770) which was an attack on the excessive interference by George III in the House of Commons. There is no such threat from the modern monarchy, whatever some silly Old Labourites may say. But there is such a thing as the tyranny of the majority. Tony Blair at the head of a triumphalist and arrogant party, supported by about the same popular vote numerically as John Major in 1992, shows signs of a worrying contempt for the traditions of the Commons. Perhaps he should read Burke, and substitute Prime Minister for King.

Burke was a great believer in what was called a mixed constitution — one in which the functions of the monarchy, the Lords and Commons resulted in a pragmatic division of contending powers, each restraining the other. As Mr McCue observes, vestiges of this concept still exist, but what Burke most feared is fast happening: the "sovereignty of the people" is overriding all checks on the Commons. The Monarch is a figurehead, and the Lords will soon become an overcrowded quango of placemen.

Burke is regarded as the symbol and exemplar of "conservatism" in its later meaning but for most of his life he was devoted to "liberal" causes. He set out in famous words to the electors of Bristol the right of their MP to be a representative, not a delegate. He did not thank him and chuckled him out. He opposed the coercion of the American colonies, the incompetent administration of Ireland and the malpractices of the East India Company. He devoted years of his life to the impeachment of Warren Hastings. He failed, but India was better governed thereafter.

Until 1790 Burke had been the intellectual power behind the Whiggism of Rockingham and Fox. He played a similar role to that of Disraeli in support of post-1846 Toryism — a useful but largely mistrusted necessity. But Burke

never reached the Cabinet. By Disraeli's day the political world had changed. Even an adventurer could climb to the top of the greasy pole. But after Burke's famous denunciation of the French Revolution the Tories and he parted company. It seemed a toll vote-farmer from all that he had previously stood for. Was not the Revolution a cause for rejoicing amongst true lovers of liberty — a moment when it was bliss to be alive? Tories naturally detested it, but for Whigs to attack it in immortal language seemed an outrage to what would



Burke: symbol of conservatism?

now be called the Left — is dazzled by France then as the spiritual descendants were to be by Russia after 1917. Burke predicted that an egalitarian revolution would result in a despotism in the name of The People. He was right.

Of this trio of books the most helpful introduction to Burke is the volume of essays edited by Ian Croft, which covers pretty much all aspects of the person. Mr O'Brien described as an extraordinary man, Burke is usually regarded as a Conservative icon. A.J.P. Taylor called him a "Wing Back". But New Labour has refused to accept a Tory monopoly of Burke. Side by side there are days in his praise by John Redwood and Lord Plant. Nothing could illustrate better the final extinction of British socialism.

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# Season of betrayal

Jonathan Mirsky wonders just how solidly the Government supported Hong Kong's last Governor in the dealings with China

Jonathan Dimbleby's newest book has caused a sensation in Britain, as did his last, on the Prince of Wales, but this time because of the public rather than the private life of his central figure. The sensation arises from a mighty *Factus* that some of the best-known men in British diplomatic life — Lord Howe of Aberavon, Sir Percy Cradock, Lord Wilson of Tillymorn, and Sir Robin McLaren — are guilty of "arrogance, cynicism, a dishonourable conduct... Britain's reputation there will be indelibly stained by the mark of appeasement." Most damningly, Mr Dimbleby suggests that Hong Kong "liberal opinion" accuses these men of "betrayal" — which he carefully encloses in inverted commas.

The charge of "betrayal" in a long and elegantly written book, centres on 1986 and 1987 when Britain was faced with Chinese objections to a White Paper looking forward to very modest elections in 1988 for the Legislative Council. The Hong Kong Government decided to test public opinion and discovered that an overwhelming number of people favoured such a small political reform. It then, with what Dimbleby calls "a breathtaking sleight of hand... designed to suggest the reverse was true... with an effrontery usually only associated with totalitarian states and banana republics", declared to the Hong Kong people that they opposed an election — when in fact 265,078 favoured such one and only 94,565 did not.

This was more or less understood at the time. What Mr Dimbleby states flatly in his book and is utterly base if true, is that Lord Howe, Robin McLaren, and Lord Wilson (then Sir David Wilson), advised by Sir Percy, warned the Chinese that the poll would go against them, and then connived to rig it. Mr Dimbleby says that London "advised the Chinese informally" that they should instruct their friends in Hong Kong to write to the government polling office indicating their opposition to elections. Chris Patten describes this as "a pretty peculiar business" and "hoax".

Mr Dimbleby also says that the Foreign Office, astonishingly, neglected to tell the new Governor in 1992, before he arrived in Hong Kong, that two years earlier the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, and the Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, reached an agreement on certain arrangements for future elections. One of these, had Mr Patten been told, cast into doubt the legitimacy of a section of the Governor's reforms, the very package which caused Beijing to call him a whore.

Mr Patten got a whiff of this just before going up to Beijing to discuss his plan with his opposite numbers, who naturally thought he was the messenger for a fundamental breach of agreement. He didn't dare tell them of the cock-up. Douglas Hurd told Mr Dimbleby that he had forgotten about his agreement with Mr Qian and admitted it had been a mistake not to inform the Governor.

Also listed as not telling Mr Patten are Sir Percy Cradock — who says convincingly that he was certain Mr Patten had been properly briefed — Sir Robin, "who drafted the British documents" and Tony Galsworthy, Mr Patten's Foreign Office political adviser and now Britain's new Ambassador to China. Mr Patten was forced to walk naked into the presence of his enemies.

This sounds like a mammoth cock-up. What seems to me genuine betrayal is something not yet noted in last week's hasty scrambles to name the guilty men. In 1993 Mr Hurd invited Mr Patten, less than a year after his appointment as Governor, to return to London and, as Leader of the House of Lords, "help shepherd the Government" and a beleaguered Prime Minister towards the next election.

Mr Patten, "not tempted for a moment", would, however, have returned out of "loyalty and political conviction" if the Prime Minister had "asked him unequivocally...". In 1994, three years before the handover, John Major himself made an improved offer: Leader of the Lords, Foreign Secretary, and Deputy Prime Minister, all rolled into one: "Apart from Major himself, Patten would become the most powerful man in the Cabinet."

What troubled the Governor, who was able to refuse again, was that for the Prime Minister, who always insisted in public that he stood solidly behind Mr Patten, "Britain's mission in Hong Kong somehow mattered less in 10 Downing Street than the future of his administration." For a while Patten brooded on this: it did nothing to cheer him.

People in Hong Kong will have the right to wonder after all this, together with Mr Dimbleby's accounts of the Archbishop of Canterbury and his predecessor refusing to stay in Government House because it might anger China, the rows with Michael Heseltine, James Callaghan, Lord Young, Michael Howard, and most of the Foreign Office "sinologists," if Chris Patten, during his five years there, had been out on his own limb — which many in London, at the highest level of



Chris Patten receives the Union Flag, lowered for the last time from Government House in Hong Kong on June 30

government, were striving to lop off.

Finally, an unavoidable question hangs over Mr Dimbleby's entire account: can we trust it? He says he had "easy access" to Mr Patten who agreed to discuss "his strategy and tactics at every stage of what was to be a serious and sustained diplomatic crisis." How did Mr Patten, whose authorised memoir in fact this is, convince

Mr Dimbleby? Did he show him state documents? During the Legislative Council crucial vote in 1994 on Mr Patten's programme, Mr Dimbleby was present during a discussion of what must have been telephone intercepts only minutes before from Beijing to its allies in the council building.

Mr Patten used to insist there was not "the thickness of a piece of paper" between him and the Prime Minister on

Hong Kong matters. In *The Last Governor* we learn that a very large pantechinicon could have been driven between the two men on a fundamental issue: the need for the Governor to stay at the helm until the midnight of the 1997 handover. As for the rest of the charges, which may or may not traduce men whose honour is precious to them, Mr Dimbleby must now move from allegation to proof.

John Weightman lays Lacan bare

## Analysing the analyst

Once, at a Parisian dinner party, I heard a lady remark: "Mon fils vient de sortir de son Oedipe" (My son has just got over his Oedipus complex), much as she might have said that he had recently had his appendix removed. This brought home to me the fact that for a surprising number of French intellectuals, Freudianism is not simply an interesting body of parascientific speculation, but a dogmatic system to be accepted as the truth. Consequently, its history, like that of all revealed religions, has been endlessly fraught with doctrinal disputes. No wonder, then, that this extraordinary book, about the most flamboyant French neo-Freudian of the 20th century should read like an account of the schisms in the medieval Church and be redolent with odium theologicum.

At first, one might take Ms Roudinesco for an anti-Lacanian, because she paints such a damning picture of Lacan, the man. An unfaithful husband to two wives and a neglectful, capricious father, he was "a womaniser and a libertine", "greedy", "snobbish", "devious" and possessed by "an immense desire to be recognised and famous". But she praises the professional: "Lacan towered over all the members of his own generation in terms of personal charisma, as well as clinical and theoretical genius".

However, she is strangely schizoid, since her book contains ample evidence to contradict this positive view of Lacan's achievement. She doesn't seem to notice that she herself undermines her encomium by frequently demonstrating that he plays fast and loose with Freud and even, as she puts it, "massacres" him in translation. She also shows that many eminent people who came into contact with Lacan or tried to read his big, sibylline text, *Écrits*, had a negative reaction. He claimed to have incorporated into Freudianism concepts derived from, amongst others, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Ramon Jakobson and Martin Heidegger, but Lévi-Strauss refused to comment on his work, saying ironically that he couldn't understand it. Jakobson was careful to keep his distance and Heidegger dryly remarked: "The psychiatrist needs a psychiatrist. I must declare a prejudice: I once attended a lecture he gave, and was so put off by his spasmodic, oracular delivery that I left before the end."

But not everyone is allergic to gurus, far from it. Ms Roudinesco describes how the audience at his "seminars" (his teaching was mainly oral) gradually increased over the years, so that, by 1963, when he broke with mainstream Freudianism, he founded his own *École Freudienne*, he had an army of

JACQUES LACAN  
An Outline of a Life and History of a System of Thought

By Elizabeth Roudinesco  
Polity Press, £25  
ISBN 0 7456 1533 6

fervent, if quarrelsome, disciples. From being "a brilliant Socrates" in a limited context, he eventually allowed himself "to be worshipped like a god and his teaching to be treated as holy writ".

She blames his followers for this, but was it not a consequence of his own colossal vanity? At an early stage, he developed the maniacal conviction that he was "the only person capable of listening to the true word of Freud". Being both a law unto himself and economical with the



Lacan: lies from the couch?

truth, he disregarded the rules of the International Psychoanalytical Society while claiming to respect them, and so fell foul of various members, including the three major female figures, Anna Freud, Melanie Klein and Marie Bonaparte. His own *École* had a stormy existence under his dictatorial and erratic leadership; well before his death, it had begun to explode into what Ms Roudinesco calls "messianic sects".

In his last phase, when he tried to combine Freudianism with Joycean word-play in the manner of *Finnegan's Wake*, he seems to have become definitely deranged, probably through some physiological deterioration of the brain, due to old age: certainly, the last texts quoted by Ms Roudinesco cannot be described as sane.

Thanks to his celebrity and to the high fees he charged for analytical sessions, and even "non-sessions" (ie, a few minutes in the silent, or near-silent, presence of the Master), he had long been a rich man. In one respect, at least, he conformed to original Freudian symbolism; he preferred to keep his wealth in gold ingots.

## It's good to exorcise

David Dabydeen

THE BOUNTY  
By Derek Walcott  
Faber, £14.99  
ISBN 0 571 19130 4

Bounty is Derek Walcott's bid to lay the ghosts of his life and career while deifying his late mother, Alix Walcott, and reminiscing on his experience of the world, of art and of the Caribbean. It is a book in which the poet returns to his beginnings but continuously broods about his end, and also about the excessive bounty of the earth, of landscape, art, kinship and memory.

The first part is about the death of his mother; then he reflects on Europe, its cultural treasures and the haunting tragedies of its sins. He recalls the French Impressionists; ancestors of his watercolour painting which adorns the cover of the book. He reflects on Italy, on modern and classical Rome, ending with an allusion to Oedipus at Colonus whose tragic fate was bequeathed to his daughter, but which could also be Walcott himself passing the mantle. *Bounty* underscores issues and themes that are important to Walcott, to literature and to all humanity, such as "the pain of exile" and "the self-importance of despair". He compresses almost his whole life in the book, even composing his own epitaph while at the same time ironically reliving the great cities of Cervantes and Manet. "Here lies/DW. This place is good to die in". It really was.

Although at times a bit self-indulgent, the poet is conscious of his unending preoccupation with the sentiment of elegy. He asks his friend and fellow Nobel laureate, Joseph Brodsky, who died in 1996: "Joseph, why am I writing this/when you cannot read it?" Of his mother, he asks: "But can she or can she not read this? Can you read this? Mamma, or hear it?" He reflects the "self-importance of despair" in such lines, and in many others in which he echoes Auden's remark on the lonely individualism of suffering and Dylan Thomas's metaphor of the River Row which flows on as if "obliterating hurt".

But while Walcott stresses the continuance of indifferent business as usual in spite of his grief, and while the poetry will sometimes tire with repetition, the metaphors of death are deployed in Romanic fashion to celebrate beauty in all its meanings. He takes his title from a line of Yeats — "the bounty of Sweden" — and indeed, a past criticism of him was that the influence of some

British and European poets was too evident in his verse. He refers to Shakespeare as well as to Dante Alighieri whose *terza rima* verse form of he uses to such perfection in *Omeros* and in Part One of this book. His work draws strength from John Clare, Eliot, Lawrence, Dylan Thomas, Marvell and Synge.

But the greatest influence detected here is of Walcott himself. *The Bounty* rings with repeated echoes of his earlier verse, including *In a Green Night*, *Another Life*, *The Gulf and Omeros*, with an abundance of revisited themes and fossil-metaphors. He returns to his repeatedly used linguistic and syntactic metaphors such as "... then winter, / where you stand like an exclamation on a page of white ground" and "squirrels spring up like questions". The most important issue, however, is that despite the several other repetitions from the past, Walcott is no longer learning "to suffer in accurate iambs" or rooting for "scraps of favour" as he was in the 1960s. *Bounty* is hardened by the best verse one is likely to find anywhere in the world and even if there are debts to the wider literature, the result is all Walcott's. With originality and confidence, he shapes a craft whose assured excellence, even now, does not cease to amaze.

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A PERSONAL HISTORY

TIMOTHY GARTON ASH



The industry's new confederation, launched today, reflects the restoration of its confidence after the 'double dip' recession, Philip Bassett reports

# Builders regroup to welcome recovery

Britain's building industry is emerging from the doldrums of the Nineties, boosted by a growing economy and policy changes introduced by the new Government.

Instead of job losses and firms facing closure, the talk in the construction industry is now of demand, new jobs, opportunity and growth.

Sir Martin Laing, chairman of John Laing, says the industry is now out of recession — though he stresses that it was hit harder and for longer than other industries, with construction going back into a slump as other sectors pulled out.

He judges the "double dip" recession to be over now — and is looking forward with hope and confidence.

The building industry will mark this change today with the launch of its new Construction Confederation. In the restored splendour of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on London's South Bank, the major British construction companies will celebrate what they hope will be their own splendid restoration after the rough days of the 1990s — as companies, and as a coherent representative force in dealing with the new Government.

"Historically, the construction industry has done better under Labour governments than Conservative governments," says Sir Martin, who is president of the new confederation.

It is odd, then, that construction companies have been among the most financially generous supporters of the Conservatives. Stressing that Laing's itself does not make financial donations to any political party, Sir Martin acknowledges the point — though industry leaders recognise that because of it, they may well have some ground to make up with New Labour.

Ian Deslandes, chief execu-

tive of the new confederation, is specific about how construction views the new Government.

"The first two months can hardly have been better," he says. "For construction, the real difference is that the last two years were so uncertain. Construction is an investment industry, and the uncertainty in the lead-up to the election meant that people investing in construction who were looking for long-term direction couldn't see it."

The industry has been hit hard by stop-go economics, so the Government's strictures against boom and bust economics are particularly welcome. So too are the changes aimed at improving stability, including giving operational independence to the Bank of England.

Gordon Brown's recent Budget also drew plaudits from the building trade.

Its emphasis on investment and on long-term growth suits construction firms. The Chancellor's decision to allow the phased spending of local authorities' council house sales receipts will, the industry feels, lead to a regeneration of public house-building — a sector of the construction business hit hard in the Conservative years, and which is still showing few signs of improvement.

Equally, construction bosses like the cut in corporation tax — not just for their own firms, but as a new means of attracting investment to Britain — and the Government's welfare-to-work plans. The industry has seen more than 100,000 jobs go in the 1990s, but the recovery in its prospects means that it will now need to hire new people. Sir Martin Laing told *The Times* this week that the industry will



Optimistic  
Sir Martin Laing

need to hire at least 10,000 people over the next 18 months to two years, and he sees the welfare-to-work programme as something which the industry can support for its own benefit and that of out-of-work youngsters.

Building companies are happy, too, with "their" minister — Housing Minister Nick Raynsford, who is expected to attend today's Confederation launch. As a former housing activist before entering Parliament, he is seen as someone who knows the industry well. If all this sounds upbeat, it is — though the industry didn't like the increase in stamp duty and the scaling down of mortgage interest tax relief.

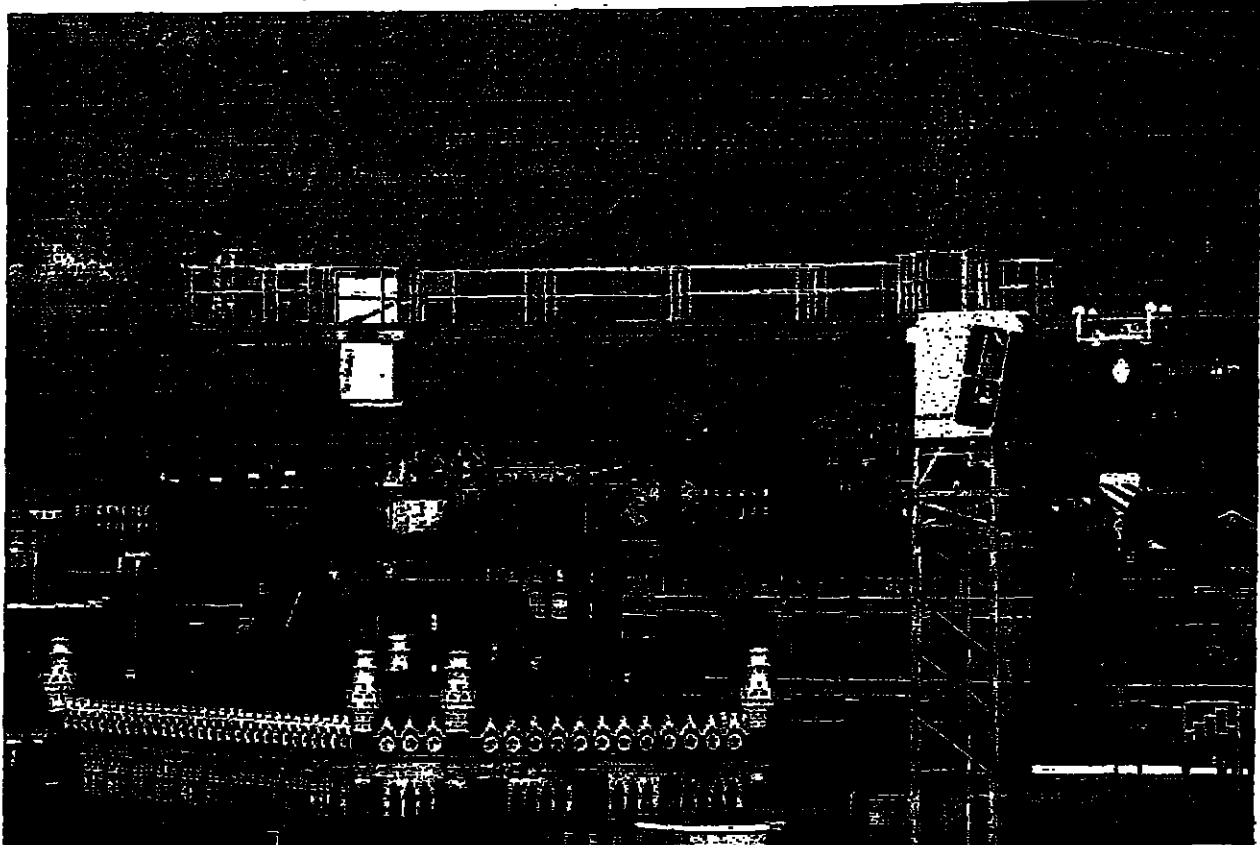
Partly the optimism is because business in construction is growing, though building leaders such as Sir Martin are sceptical about talk of a housing boom, pointing out that

outside London and parts of the South East, there is as yet little sign of it.

Recession lies behind today's launch of the new umbrella body. For years, construction was the best example of incoherent business representation: a plethora of competing employers' organisations, immensely confusing to the trade, wasteful of resources and performing poorly in their relations with Government.

Eventually the large companies decided they had had enough. They told the competing employers' bodies that they had to rationalise themselves or the big firms would withdraw and cause their collapse. The building bodies have managed to respond to the challenge. The new Construction Confederation is moving to premises in the City, with a new spirit and new ambitions to represent construction companies as well as it can.

"Trade associations sound very 19th-century," says Sir Martin. "We have to make sure that what we are in the future is 21st, rather than 19th, century."



Cranes looming over the city tell of the building industry's renewed growth, investment, jobs and opportunities

## An industry that's on the up and up

PROSPECTS for the UK's £55.2 billion-turnover construction industry are looking better than at any time over the past decade, *Stephen Hoare writes*.

An upturn in commercial property, renewed confidence in the private finance initiative, and lottery-funded schemes such as the Greenwich millennium exhibition are among the market forces buoying just about every sector of the industry.

While industry as a whole began to climb out of recession from 1992, it is only in the past year that construction started showing a growth in output. Orders over the past year rose by 20 per cent across the UK, Ian Deslandes, chief executive of

the Construction Confederation, says: "We're in the early stages of a recovery. The next two to three years will see construction growing along with GDP at the modest rate of 2.5 per cent and that is an encouraging prospect."

As economic output grows construction follows. An increase in commercial activity creates the demand for more offices and factories; a rise in consumer spending sparks retail development. With sectors like housing more complex economies are at work. John Stewart, an economic adviser to the Construction Confederation, says: "Private housing is dependent not only on real income growth, but on factors like the health of the housing market, the

### ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

mortgage rate and the employment situation."

Some of the biggest rises in output have been seen in the southeast of England where private housing construction leads the field with a rise of 15 per cent over the past year and a £1.4 billion turnover. London has seen some of the fastest growth over the past year — notably the 27 per cent growth in infrastructure construction — helped by massive projects like the Jubilee Line extension and the Heathrow Express — and a 22 per cent rise in commercial property development.

There has also been a surge in the private repair

and refurbishment sector as commercial premises are upgraded and redundant city-centre office buildings converted to luxury apartments or hotels. The biggest part of this sector's workload is accounted for by small-scale building. Construction Forecasting and Research (CFR) is concluding a survey into the market and estimates activity to be in the region of £12 billion.

According to the Office of National Statistics figures, 56 per cent of all new investment last year was construction related. Construction's share of GDP looks set to grow higher under Labour.

Last month's budget contained welcome news for housing and schools. Local authorities were told they were free to release £5 billion in capital receipts to fund new housing and the refurbishment of run-down stock — a move designed to tackle the £18-20 billion repair backlog in social housing and the 70,000 a year shortfall in the building of new rented accommodation. Education received a £2 billion bonus, most of it earmarked for repairs to school buildings.

The speedy review of PFI led by Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Group, and the setting up of a Treasury task force promises to fulfil the last government's target of

£14 billion of PFI projects signed up or completed by the end of the next financial year, 1998-99. The decision to go ahead with 14 major hospitals schemes paves the way for a £1.3 billion injection of private capital into the health service.

Added to this, the operation of PFI roads, prisons, government offices, schools and colleges has laid the foundations for a multi-billion pound facilities management (FM) sector — a field the construction industry is set to dominate. Neil Ashley, chairman of construction and FM group Amy, says: "Facilities management is very much what these PFIs are about — the long-term management of an asset."



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## Outside funds will help boost public works

**PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE**

If there was ever a time the construction industry feared an incoming Labour Government, the speed with which it picked up and ran with Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) has removed any lingering qualms.

Like the construction industry, it recognises private finance is the only practicable way of providing public services and infrastructure. Neville Simms, Tarmac chief executive and chairman of the Major Contractors' Group, says: "PFI is healthy for Britain and it is healthy for the construction industry."

A founder member of the Government's PFI panel, Mr Simms has been a leading influence in shaping PFI since 1992. Tarmac is one of a clutch of construction companies prominent in the consortiums set up to raise finance, design, build and operate big PFI projects.

He was heartened when the review of PFI led by Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pearl Group, promptly accepted all the industry's recommendations and announced the setting up of a Treasury task force to educate public-sector clients in the process.

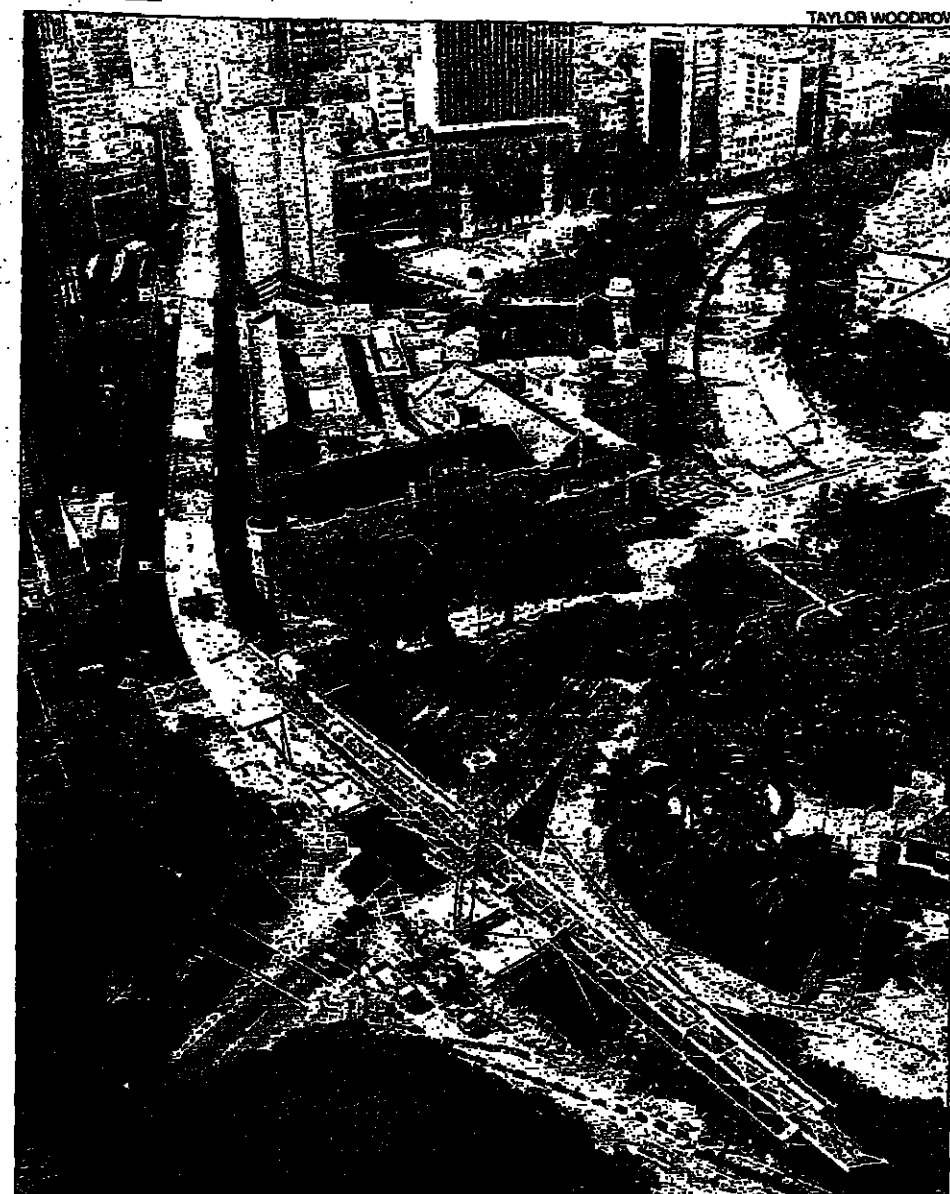
The recent announcement that only 14 out of an original 43 big hospital schemes were to go ahead has at least brought certainty to the market, and in the education sector barriers to PFI are quickly coming down.

In future such schemes have to demonstrate a genuine public need and a strong business case.

So can the construction industry deliver? Backed by big financial institutions and equity funds, the PFI consortiums seem to have no shortage of venture capital for schemes above the £20 million mark. Most major contractors have set up facilities management (FM) subsidiaries capable of operating and maintaining schemes once they are built. But contractors could find themselves financing small local-authority schemes unless these can be made attractive to the investment banks.

Mr Simms warns: "Major contractors are prepared to take risks, but if the construction industry doesn't dig into its pockets now to fund the PFI process it won't happen. Constructors have also seen their traditional public-sector workload put on hold as schemes were market tested. Mr Simms reckons that over the past four years £4 billion of public-sector contracts have been cancelled, adding hardship when the construction industry was stuck in recession."

The huge costs of bidding for PFIs speak for themselves. By the time the deal was signed, Tarmac's £115 million bid to build Dartford and Gravesend hospital had swelled up £2 million — mostly



The Kuala Lumpur railway system in Malaysia is a fine example of joint enterprise

in legal fees and consultancy as well as the detailed design needed to guarantee cast-iron build costs.

This level of costs is a constraint on how many PFI schemes a contractor can take on. Taylor Woodrow is currently handling seven projects at various stages. Director Brian Hendry says: "We don't spend money like this up front unless we're pretty sure of the likelihood of bringing the project to a close. Most of the costs come in the final stages."

A partnership approach would help contractors save on the costs of bidding and enable them to tackle more projects. Working closer together, public and private sectors can streamline the bidding process, standardise contracts and bring projects quickly to a

close. The construction industry is well placed to identify areas where innovative design can reduce lifetime costs of a building and make operating easier and more efficient. The Government, for its part, has to accept the responsibility arising from future changes in legislation. Mr Simms says: "A partnership between the public and the private sectors means risk is transferred to the party best capable of managing it."

With risk comes the reward. PFI opens three new business activities to the construction industry. By taking equity stake in the projects, contractors are acquiring assets that could one day be traded. Then there is the increased design capability and the operating and maintenance con-

tracts, which look set to provide construction companies' FM arms with assured workloads throughout the 20 to 25-year duration of the PFI concessions. Mr Simms says: "We're expecting each of these operations to make a profit."

But PFI is a global market, and one where British contractors earned their spurs. Many, like Taylor Woodrow's £300 million Kuala Lumpur light-rail system, are far bigger than anything Britain has to offer. Mr Hendry says: "If it proves too difficult to get PFI projects to a close in the UK, contractors could turn their attentions overseas."

STEPHEN HOARE



Neville Simms, Major Contractors' Group chairman

Amanda Loose reports on new techniques and attitudes in the industry

## Satellites come into the picture

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



High-tech: an engineer sites piles via satellite signals

Innovation is becoming a buzz word in the construction industry, but will we soon be able to order our own des res, built for us by robots, and delivered lock, stock and barrel to the site of our choice as the Japanese do? Whatever the outcome, most in the industry believe that advances in information technology — even the use of satellites — will probably lead to dramatic changes in the next decade.

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions spends £23 million each year on construction-related research. About £1.6 million is spent on promoting a climate of innovation and speeding the implementation of existing research results.

Trevor Higgs, director of the technical department at the Construction Confederation, says: "The last major innovations in the industry were in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Now concerns are threefold: cost and time efficiency, and environmental awareness."

"We are just starting work on a scheme to reduce waste on building sites, which will also reduce the landfill tax companies have had to pay since last October."

One big contractor said recently that almost 20 per cent of their materials ends up as waste. We are looking at its recycling building materials at special centres to avoid waste."

Professor Alan Hopper of Nottingham Trent University, is conducting a study into industry and innovation, with trade organisations such as the House Builders Federation (HBF). He says: "Interest in innovation has increased in

the past few years. Toyota has created a prefabricated house, designed to customer specification by computer-aided design, and built by robotic construction in a factory. They build about 4,500 of these each year."

Many UK builders such as Laing and Bovis have set up their own innovation departments, while the Building

Research Establishment is about to appoint its first director of innovation and construction.

Information technology has had much influence on the construction industry. Brian Zelly, the group director of Laing's integrated engineering constructions unit, which looks at innovations as they develop, says: "We use com-

puter-aided design to build a three-dimensional picture of the building as we go along. The computer is cost-effective because we know exactly what we need."

Laing is also looking at ways to simplify construction, using units such as the service chunks of air-conditioning plants built off-site, and delivered ready to connect. Modularisation is another possibility: designing a building in repeatable units, built off-site, with combinations that can be slotted together to create variations.

At Bluewater shopping and leisure complex, which is being built at Dartford in Kent, piles are being positioned by satellite.

Barry Burman of Lend Lease, which is working on construction with Bovis, says: "We have three satellite stations on site, and need four satellites to be in relatively close proximity. The co-ordinates of where the pile must be placed are stored in the on-site computer, and sent as a signal to the satellites."

When the signal comes down, and the co-ordinates lock on, the site engineers, with headset and probe, hear the beep, and mark the spot. This gives an accuracy of plus or minus 20mm."

O'Rourke, the frame contractor at Bluewater, has developed a precasting facility for many of the concrete columns and beams, while a pre-cast shell is made for the load-bearing primary beams, filled in situ. Mr Burman says this has improved accuracy and raised construction rates by up to 20 per cent.

## Building for the 21st century

THE FEDERATION

■ To negotiate agreements on behalf of these organisations and represent their interests in bodies such as the Confederation of British Industry and the Construction Industry Training Board.

■ To provide information and advice.

■ To take appropriate action to promote the interests of the industry.

Specific lobbying interests, which the Government has confirmed are on its agenda.



Ian Deslandes

include construction's role in the wider economy; the promotion of public-private partnerships; urgent action to improve the quality and quantity of training; the industry's contribution to the environment and the wider use of partnering in construction.

Specialist departments will drive these policies forward through political and technical representations. These key departments comprise public

affairs, employment, the law, and technology and the environment.

Ian Deslandes, chief executive of the confederation, said: "This new organisation will provide a unified and much more powerful voice with which to speak for one of Britain's largest and most important industries. It will enable construction, which accounts for half of Britain's total annual investment and is the largest single industry employer of labour, to punch its full weight in the quarters that matter. We are creating an entirely new organisation which will anticipate and meet our industry's needs in the 21st century."



## Construction Confederation

Speaking for the Industry

The Construction Confederation represents the interests of over 5,000 construction companies who carry out over 75 per cent of the total turnover of the UK construction industry.

Its mission is to promote and secure the interests of building and civil engineering contractors and to provide high quality and cost effective services to member firms to help them improve both their service to clients and their own profitability.

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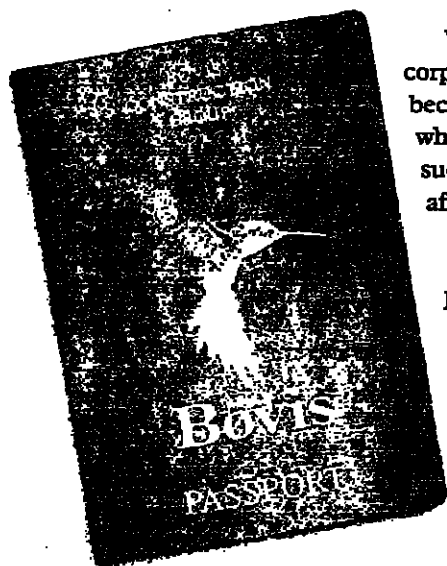
Issued by Midland Bank plc





UK firms are heavily involved in Hong Kong's new airport at Chek Lap Kok

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## Foreign contracts beckon

Steve McCormack on the rewards for UK firms who have the nerve to venture abroad

**B**ritish contractors have a tradition of operating overseas. Today, British firms are active in more than 100 countries.

In terms of our international competitors, Britain's construction industry is consistently ranked among the top five. According to the latest figures from the Department of the Environment, total British construction industry exports for 1995-96 amounted to around £10 billion.

Of this total, overseas building and civil engineering contracts secured during 1995 were worth £5.5 billion, 45 per cent up on 1994 and 72 per cent more than in 1993.

However, these figures alone can give a distorted view, as the majority of British contractors have little or no interest outside the home market, and 90 per cent of all overseas income is earned by the top ten contractors. It is now acknowledged that exports must become more important to British contractors if the industry is to avoid the danger of further shrinkage.

According to Sir Frank Lampl, chairman of Bovis, the industry has tended to be too dependent on the domestic market for the past two de-

### OVERSEAS

cades. "The UK construction industry could be more successful overseas," he says. "But you can only expand worldwide if you have a sound basis in your home market."

Bovis is unusual among British contractors in having 60 per cent of its turnover, and about half its profits, from overseas projects. Of the overseas markets, North America remains the largest, accounting for 36 per cent of all new contracts in 1995. Other growing markets include the Far East, including China, with Hong Kong accounting for two thirds of work won there. Europe remains strong, while the figures show a decline for the Middle East and Oceania and static performance in Africa.

Some observers predict that British contractors will remain at a disadvantage on the world stage because of their relatively small size. Others argue that UK contractors are experts at establishing relationships with companies with whom they can cooperate.

"There is some concern in this age of large, privately financed projects that the smaller UK contractors will



Passenger terminal building at the new Hong Kong airport, due to open next year

only be able to take on a limited number of them," says Alick Goldsmith, director of the Export Group for the Construction Industries.

This trend is recognised by Frank Kennedy, managing director of Tarmac Construction International. He says: "The wider introduction of lump sum bidding and design and construct contracts mean that

greater risks are now being passed on to the contractor. However, this can also be a good thing for the larger contractors working overseas as the rewards can be higher."

But if British contractors are to succeed in procuring big international projects, especially in the developing world, government support for British companies must become

more effective. It must at least be equal to that enjoyed by our competitors, many of whom enjoy significant advantages due to their stronger and protected home markets.

According to Mr Goldsmith, all the industry wants is a level playing field. "Government support is crucial in winning business in emerging markets."

## Don't get saddled with a cowboy

### CONSUMERS

companies out of the market," he says.

"Large companies often have small works teams. Just because a job is small, it doesn't mean that a large company won't be interested."

Builders say that although there are builders operating in the black economy who do a good job, cowboys and the black economy tend to grow in tandem, as both offer the customer a cheaper deal. Many complain bitterly that Brussels and Westminster have neglected the situation.

Mr Moon and Mr Tierney both believe the European

Union and the British Government must support the building industry in stamping out cowboys.

Mr Moon says: "The Government has indicated that if the building industry does not put itself in order to allow consumers to distinguish good builders from the cowboys, then it will take action. That would probably come in the second or third year of the current Parliament."

"My fear is that legislation will harm the legitimate builder without touching the cowboy."

He adds: "Changes in consumer policy can only be part of a wider package. The level at which businesses must

register for VAT is a major cause for concern. It is possible within EU guidelines to reduce VAT rates in cases of social need, and our housing stock is deteriorating."

● Be on guard against the cowboys: get a proper estimate; ask for the builder's telephone number and make sure it is a fixed line, not a mobile number; do not pay for the job before it is done; do not agree to buy your own materials; ask for references and check them; employ an established building company; inquire if the builder provides a guarantee backed by insurance; do not hand back the invoice — it will be sold illegally to a builder who can reclaim VAT.

THERE is a lot that people can do to protect themselves against cowboy builders. Rodney Hobson writes.

As Stephen Moon, director at the National Federation of Builders, says: "When people employ builders they do not take enough time to check their reputations or get references. That leaves them open to exploitation. Nobody buys cars or holidays that way, yet building work can cost thousands."

Brian Tierney, national president of the Federation of Master Builders, agrees: "By evading VAT, income tax, National Insurance and levies, the black-economy builder can offer savings of up to 30 per cent."

Members of the public go out to get a cheaper deal and get caught by the cowboys. There are customers who do

not want to know you if you are registered for VAT."

Legitimate builders are trying to safeguard the public. The National Federation of Builders has set up its Construction Skills Charter Scheme, a register of qualified builders. Genuine builders will insure their work against defects, often accepting the cost of the premium.

Small legitimate builders still tend to get tarred with the same brush when cowboys are around, though, and Mr Moon says even larger companies can be tarnished. "The problem is at the small end of the market with companies that are difficult to trace, but the cowboys can price the larger

# Achievements

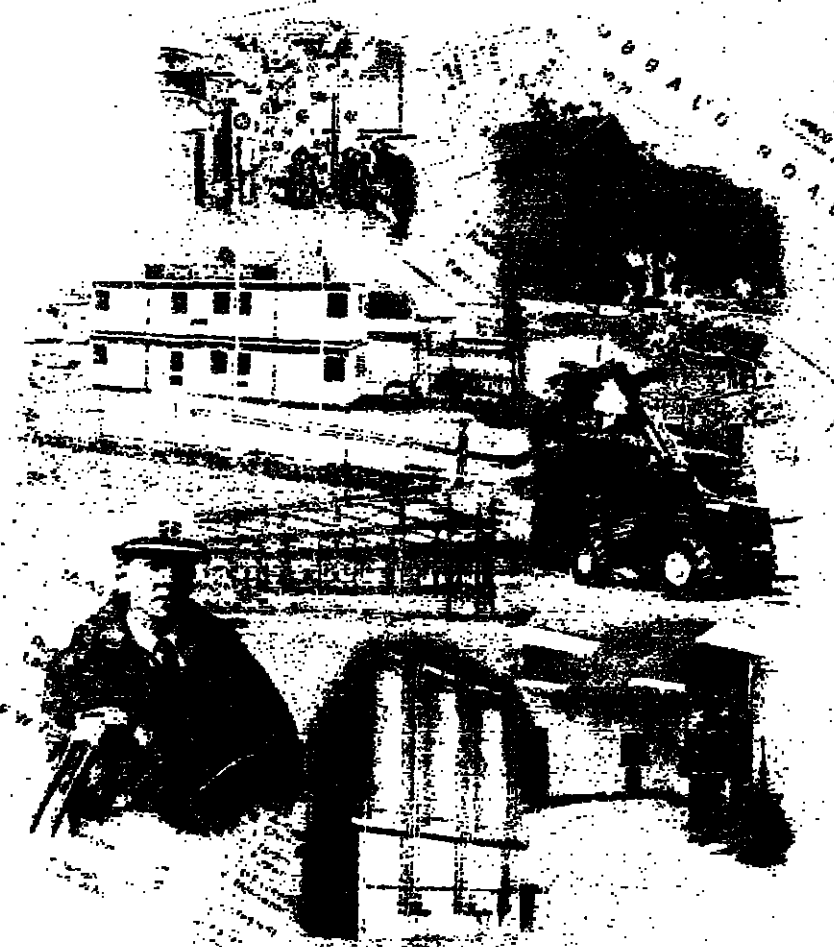
- Laing was the first construction company to win the British Quality Award.
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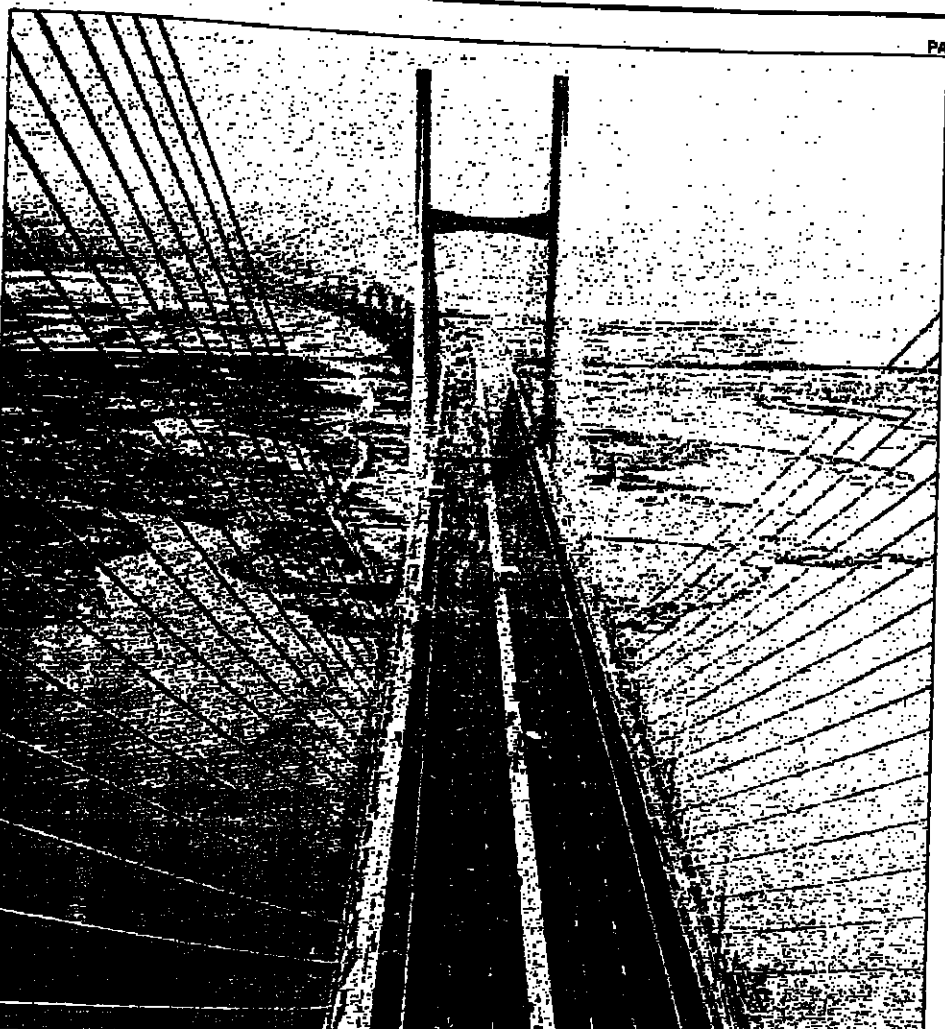
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# Time to bridge the gap

Civil engineering plays a crucial role in industry but badly needs investment, reports Rodney Hobson



The Severn Bridge is one of the British construction industry's finest achievements

The dividing lines are blurring between civil engineers and others in the construction industry such as architects, builders, maintenance companies and financiers — and that is good for the industry as a whole.

So says Peter Andrews, chairman of the Civil Engineering Contractors Association. "People have got to be bold enough to see their roles changing just as everything in life is changing at a pretty fast rate," he adds.

"We can combine our skills to produce a better construction industry. We need to remove confrontation between different disciplines as much as we can."

Mr Andrews believes that greater teamwork will help to improve the poor though improving safety record in the construction industry. It will also help to improve training and to attract more recruits.

"Training is something that the industry has not supported through the recession," he says. "It is a budget that is relatively easy to cut. You can do that for a while, but when you want to turn on the tap as things get better the trained

civil engineers will not be there.

"We have to start at schools and make the industry more attractive. The knowledge that careers masters and mistresses have of civil engineering is very sketchy. It does seem difficult to attract girls into the industry and the position is improving only slightly. We would benefit from having a lot more females at every level."

Mr Andrews wants to hammer home the message that civil engineers are vital for the comfort and wellbeing of the public and UK plc.

"Transport infrastructure such as roads, rail, harbours and airports, and even the humble sewage system are built and maintained by civil engineers," he says. "There is very little that people do in life that does not depend on civil engineers."

Mr Andrews fears that although we are still building

## RECRUITMENT

roads, not enough cash is being provided to maintain what we have already, let alone add to the road network. He also believes that the country must find the political will to produce a balance between road and rail. "We

increasing amount of freight carried. We have to be able to cope with more movement of goods."

The £16 billion that Railtrack is proposing to spend is obviously going to improve the standard of the rail network."

Rosemary Beales, the association's director, agrees that more money needs to go into road projects and that ways of raising finance must be found. "It is a false economy not to invest in the transport system," she says. "When bridges are closed because

they need strengthening, traffic is diverted onto unsuitable roads. It takes longer to make the journey and damages the environment. Closing roads is the cheapest form of maintenance."

Mr Andrews adds: "Local authorities are spending far less than is necessary because of budget cuts. The easiest way to save money is to cut down

on repairs to local roads but we must have an infrastructure that can support the economy. On country roads roundabouts used to clear the gutters so rain could run away into the ditch. The greatest enemy of roads is water. The Romans knew it but we have forgotten it. If this neglect goes on those roads will need total reconstruction."

While decisions on building new roads are ultimately the Government's responsibility, Mr Andrews does not believe that civil engineers can sit on the sidelines and absolve themselves from criticism by environmental protesters.

"We have a duty to try to help and put over our point of view," he says. "It's a wider role than sitting there and letting someone else decide. We have to ensure that what we do is as environmentally sensitive as it can be. There has always got to be a balance but the environment does not just belong to protesters in trees, it belongs to all of us. Bypasses built around small towns are of benefit to those who live and work there. Protesters who take the view that we must stop everything have got it wrong."

The environment does not just belong to protesters in trees, it belongs to all of us

are a trading nation and it is right that we should provide infrastructure so we can import and export," he says. "There is now a hunger on the freight side of the railways that will put more business back on the tracks."

"We do not necessarily have to take freight off the roads in order to build up the railways because we are seeing an

## A bright future with new trainees

### TRAINING

It will take an imaginative and committed training programme to put construction back on the road to recovery. Between 1990 and 1996, during the worst years of the recession, the industry lost almost half a million workers throughout the UK — people who left the industry for other employment and who will never return. Stephen Hoare writes.

Poised for recovery, the construction industry must boost training efforts if it is to avert serious skills shortages. Paul Shepherd, chairman of the Constructors' Confederation, says: "We lost a generation of apprentices. That situation now needs to be recovered."

Any skills shortages will appear first in Greater

London and the southeast where a mini boom in commercial and private housing is supplementing projects such as the Jubilee Line Extension and the Heathrow Express. The Greenwich millennium exhibition project will add pressure.

During the next three years the industry aims to recruit and train 10,000 entrants a year — in addition to the 14,000 already going through the system — and is pinning its hopes on the Government's Welfare to Work programme paid for by the windfall tax on utilities.

The Construction Confederation and the Construction Industry Training Board are involved in creating a £140 million Welfare to Work package for the industry — extra cash that will fund six-month pre-training for 3,500 entrants a year.

The initiative will break the attitude of only recruiting school leavers aged 16-17. Under Welfare to Work, the industry will be spreading its net to attract 18 to 25-year-olds. The introduction of the modern apprenticeships and the new national traineeship to be launched in September will provide a comprehensive training programme up to NVQ level 3 for the new recruits.

Hugh Try, the CITB chair-

man, says: "We support the idea of Welfare to Work. Recruiting from an older age group would help offset the high dropout rate among 16 to 17-year-olds on construction training and bring much-needed stability."

Set up in the 1960s and one of only two industry training bodies to have survived, the CITB meets the needs of a fragmented industry. Major contractors no longer employ their labour directly. Most of their workers are supplied on short-term contracts from labour-only subcontractors. As a result, the bulk of workplace training is carried out by small firms of fewer than 14 employees. While the CITB's levy system channels money from employers to support industry training, workplace training is a key concern.

With its five-year review of the CITB coming up next April, the Construction Confederation and prominent industry figures are setting down some markers. Mr Shepherd, chairman of

York-based Shepherd Construction, would like to see the training board getting tough. "My personal view is that the CITB levy should be increased dramatically so that if you don't train, it becomes expensive."

Last year the CITB distributed £36.2 million to employers in the form of training grants and a further £23.7 million via the Training and Enterprise Councils to support colleges and private training providers such as Tarmac and Jarvis.

The recession, coupled with tighter funding from TECs — Training and Enterprise Councils — has hit the college construction departments hard. Fourteen colleges have ceased construction training, while many more have cut back. Once gone, the training provision is lost forever.

Mr Shepherd says: "I'd like to see something bold from the Government support for training that recognises that it is more expensive in terms of resources to train up a bricklayer than it is a computer programmer."



Committed: Paul Shepherd



This year we've built  
£38 million  
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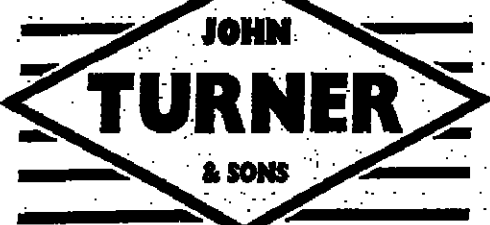
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## CRICKET

# Smith gives selectors six reasons to rethink

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

**CHELTHAM** (first day of four; Derbyshire won toss; Gloucestershire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 186 runs ahead of Derbyshire)

DAVID LLOYD, the England coach, came to the opening of the Cheltenham festival yesterday, hoping to see Mike Smith bowl himself back into contention for the Headingley Test. By lunchtime, the job was done.

Smith dismissed Derbyshire inside two hours, swinging the ball late and venomously. His six for 47 made him the first bowler this season to pass 50 wickets and, with Dean Headley once more missing a championship match with a nagging injury, Smith will today be brought into the England party.

The addition ought to be unnecessary, for the one thing that made no sense in an otherwise astutely swift reselection after Old Trafford, was the eviction of Smith. Leeds, where the ball invariably swings, is undoubtedly his ground, as he emphasised with ten wickets in Gloucestershire's championship win there last month.

The quality of his bowling and his angle as a left-arm bowler are complemented by the value of his footmarks to the off spin of Robert Croft. Lloyd, who required no personal persuasion of all this, watched with satisfaction as Smith demolished Derbyshire, then spoke by telephone to the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, who is holidaying in Spain.

Headley's incapacity makes it easy for the selectors to re-recruit Smith but, in another sense, is alarming. He took eight wickets on his debut and was much the most impressive England bowler, but his fitness is unreliable.

This was, in all ways, a marvellous day for Gloucestershire. The special sense of anticipation that Cheltenham brings was expressed in a decent crowd and the usual semi-circle of well-filled marquees. It was also expressed on the field, by players who genuinely believe they can sustain a challenge for the title.

The euphoria induced by Smith was briefly subdued when Devon Malcolm, charging in from the college green, took their first three wickets in four overs, but thereafter the

day belonged to Shaun Young. The Tasmanian left-hander made his maiden first-class hundred for the county, striking the ball with punitive force and establishing a potentially decisive lead.

The command of Young, who shared century stands with Tim Hancock and Mark Alleyne, put the earlier events sharply into context. Although ten batsmen were out before lunch, and an eleventh, Vandrou, retired requiring stitches in his jaw, this is an admirable pitch, even of bounce and allowing negligible lateral movement.

It was just as good in the corresponding festival fixture last year, which Gloucestershire bewilderingly lost inside two days. If there is to be a two-day finish this time, they will be on the right end of it, deepening the gloom that is settling over Derbyshire.

Already bottom of the table, they also remain in the grip of a conflict between players and committee, the central feature of which is a heavy fine, levied on Kim Barnett and now subject to appeal. A committee meeting on Tuesday apparently agreed to seek a compromise, but little short of a complete climbdown will satisfy Barnett. His value as a player remains high, as he emphasised yesterday. While the rest submitted feebly on a heavy, overcast morning, Barnett's technique saw him through until, with only Malcolm for company, he was last out for 58.

Twice, Smith was on a hat-trick and if Lynch had clung on to a sharp slip chance from Barnett, the ball after Clarke's departure to a misguided hook, it would have been three. In his second over, Smith removed Rollins, leg-before to a yorker, and bowled Adams through an airy drive that the batsman glumly estimated he had missed by a foot. Later, De Freitas and Harris also went to consecutive balls.

Gloucestershire's start was no better, a reminder of the batting shortcomings that inhibit them, but Derbyshire's bowling wilted in the afternoon sun. Dropping short to Young is a crime, one which the seamers repeated with severe consequences. By evening, Derbyshire looked fatalistic as Young accelerated past 150, with 106 of the runs having come from boundaries.



Adams, with the college chapel at his back, is utterly defeated by Smith, the Gloucestershire left-arm

## Roberts anchors Northamptonshire

By Barney Spender

**NORTHAMPTON** (first day of four; Northamptonshire won toss; Northamptonshire have scored 354 for nine wickets against Essex)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, despite their lowly position in the Britannic Assurance county championship, have a knack of producing promising youngsters. Yesterday it was the turn of David Roberts, 20, who compiled a fine maiden hundred in only his fifth championship match.

His innings of 117 was all the better for the fact that his colleagues eschewed the

chance of cashing in on a friendly pitch and some surprisingly wayward bowling, and so missed out on the chance of posting a truly imposing total.

They were even in danger of failing to reach 300 when Paul Grayson, bowling his left-arm spin, picked up four for one in 34 deliveries, but some robust defiance from the last pair of Ripley and Boswell not only took them past that mark but beyond 350 as well, to ensure maximum batting points.

Of the top eight, only Bailey was unable to make it into the twenties but none apart from Roberts went on beyond 36. The most eccentric performance came

from Loye who, moving down the order to No 4, scythed his way to 32 off 41 balls, as if it were a one-day game.

Roberts watched with a detached air of bemusement, showing a phlegmatic temperament when he spent just under an hour stuck on 26. Instead of getting ruffled, he quietly got himself going again and flexed his muscles when the opportunity arose, a fierce pulled six off Cowan momentarily upstaging Loye.

After reaching his 50 shortly after lunch, he demonstrated a fine array of strokes, including one delicate late cut off Such. His century arrived just before tea, from 224 balls.

## Reprieved Crawley makes Sussex pay

By Richard Hobson

**OLD TRAFFORD** (first day of four; Sussex won toss; Lancashire have scored 380 for five wickets against Sussex)

ALTHOUGH three days remain, it is hardly rash to venture that the defining moment of this game came in its first session when John Crawley, without a run to his name, attempted to drive Mark Robinson and turned to see Keith Greenfield, in the slips, spill a waist-high chance.

Almost four hours later, when conditions had eased considerably, Crawley was celebrating his second hundred of the season, succumbing soon afterwards for 112, an innings which included 15 fours. He put on 243 in 58 overs for the third wicket with Neil Fairbrother.

Given that Sussex have totalled 331 in aggregate in their past four championship innings, a third successive victory beckons strongly for

Lancashire, who recovered well from an uneasy start on a re-laid pitch that gave early assistance to the bowlers.

Robinson produced a delivery that pitched middle-and-leg before uprooting Gailian's off stump and Atherton fell leg-before when Kirtley nipped one back.

After cautious beginnings, Crawley and Fairbrother ran their singles intelligently and became more ambitious in dealing with loose deliveries that came with growing frequency. Fairbrother punished anything short in compiling 132 in 255 minutes with 14 fours.

Sussex, who entered the contest with more bowling points than any other county, decided to play without regular spinners for the first time this season, a mistake which forced Moores to turn to Greenfield and Rao, the most occasional of twirlers, as his sixth and seventh bowlers.

## Unhappy captains are not game for a laugh

By Pat Gibson

**SCARBOROUGH** (first day of four; Durham won toss; Yorkshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 15 runs behind Durham)

THERE was no confusing Michael Roseberry and David Boon, Durham captains past and present, with tonight's star turns at the theatre down by the harbour. They are called The Chuckle Brothers.

Roseberry was a picture of misery on a day which began with him being forced to retire hurt after being struck on the helmet by a short ball from White and ended with him facing a charge of showing dissent when the umpire, George Sharp, gave him out caught behind as soon as he returned.

Boon was not chuckling either. He had chosen to bat first on a sporting pitch which was green in the middle and bare at the ends, and seen his gamble backfire as Durham

were bowled out for 152 and Yorkshire cruised to 137 for two.

They used to call the Scarborough Festival "first-class cricket on holiday", but it is anything but that in the championship matches these days. It was sheer hard graft for Durham and only Lewis, the former Essex opener, seemed up to it.

He battled through 45 overs for 50 before Hartley had him caught at slip, but the rest were no match for the Yorkshire attack. There were four wickets for Gough and three for Hartley, while Silverwood ended the biggest stand — 30 with a direct hit to run out 'Bets'.

Byas and McGrath quickly put the Durham total in perspective with a second-wicket stand of 88. Byas had 11 fours in his 48 and McGrath completed his first championship half-century of the season before the close.

## Hat-trick by Franks brings renewed promise

By Michael Henderson

**TRENT BRIDGE** (first day of four; Nottinghamshire won toss; Warwickshire have scored 328 for nine wickets against Nottinghamshire)

PAUL FRANKS, 18, an all-rounder who has captained England at under-15 and 17 levels, yesterday became the youngest Nottinghamshire player to perform the hat-trick. In the first over after tea, as Warwickshire were sailing along at 225 for three, he had Penney caught behind and then hit the stumps of Brown and Welch.

The last Nottinghamshire player to do the hat-trick was Richard Hadlee, at Canterbury in 1987. That was the year that they won the championship and, on a rain-affected weekend, added the NatWest Trophy for good measure.

Then Hadlee retired from county cricket, together with Clive Rice, and the club has struggled to redefine itself. Off the field there has been a lack of direction, and on it there has been a lack of drive. Whether a younger generation is actually knocking at the door is open to question, but at least there are now some flickers of promise.

Franks, a right-arm seamer who aspires to bowl fast, goes off next month to play for the England Under-19 side against Zimbabwe. He can also hold a bat and, in diving to catch Oyster low at square leg, he showed his fielding is not bad either.

Cowley made 65, five fewer than Henry, whose cover-driving provided the main pleasure. The pitch looked green, and there was some movement through the air, but Henry and Wagh, one steadily and the other grudgingly, battered through the morning session after the loss of Mole.

Wagh took 25 overs to reach double figures and departed to one of his few attacking strokes. Henry played more freely and had just driven Tolley resoundingly for four when he was brilliantly held at second slip by Archer. Giles contributed 42 good runs.

**WARWICKSHIRE** First Innings  
A J Mole b Franks 28  
M A Wagh c Archer b Franks 65  
D L Henry c Franks b Tolley 70  
D P Oyster c Franks b Tolley 68  
L J Penney c Brown b Franks 25  
D R Brown b Franks 0  
D Welch b Franks 0  
A F Giles c Tolley b Franks 42  
T T Foster c Brown b Tolley 15  
A J Cowley not out 21  
M A V Bell not out 15  
Extras (b 7, lb 10, w 14, nb 8) 39  
Total (24 overs, 104 overs) 328

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-25, 2-65, 3-100, 4-225, 5-225, 6-225, 7-225, 8-225, 9-225, 10-225, 11-225, 12-225, 13-225, 14-225, 15-225, 16-225, 17-225, 18-225, 19-225, 20-225, 21-225, 22-225, 23-225, 24-225, 25-225, 26-225, 27-225, 28-225, 29-225, 30-225, 31-225, 32-225, 33-225, 34-225, 35-225, 36-225, 37-225, 38-225, 39-225, 40-225, 41-225, 42-225, 43-225, 44-225, 45-225, 46-225, 47-225, 48-225, 49-225, 50-225, 51-225, 52-225, 53-225, 54-225, 55-225, 56-225, 57-225, 58-225, 59-225, 60-225, 61-225, 62-225, 63-225, 64-225, 65-225, 66-225, 67-225, 68-225, 69-225, 70-225, 71-225, 72-225, 73-225, 74-225, 75-225, 76-225, 77-225, 78-225, 79-225, 80-225, 81-225, 82-225, 83-225, 84-225, 85-225, 86-225, 87-225, 88-225, 89-225, 90-225, 91-225, 92-225, 93-225, 94-225, 95-225, 96-225, 97-225, 98-225, 99-225, 100-225, 101-225, 102-225, 103-225, 104-225, 105-225, 106-225, 107-225, 108-225, 109-225, 110-225, 111-225, 112-225, 113-225, 114-225, 115-225, 116-225, 117-225, 118-225, 119-225, 120-225, 121-225, 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## Ealham directs familiar rescue

By Jack Bailey

**CANTERBURY** (first day of four; Kent won toss; Kent have scored 356 for seven wickets against Leicestershire)

The gremlins that influenced the tide of events for Kent in the Benson and Hedges Cup final were still lurking in large numbers yesterday morning. Kent took first innings in the knowledge that their erstwhile secretary, Stewart Anderson, had that morning broken his leg on the tennis court. The air of doom and gloom persisted as Kent made their way, hesitantly, to 126 for five.

Trevor Ward had bucked the trend with a cultured half-century, but it was not until Paul Strang joined Mark Ealham, at the fall of the sixth wicket for 162, that Kent's equilibrium was restored. These two added 145 runs during an entertaining 38 overs. Ealham's five-hour innings has taken him to within four runs of his century. Tenacity and sensible aggression were applied by these two as they staged the sort of rescue act that all too often has been a necessary feature of Kent's season.

A measure of the unreliability in championship games of Kent's batting in the upper order lies with the fact that, of their three centuries, all have come from below stairs. Ealham already has one, Steve Marsh and Ben Phillips the others. So, in a sense, the Kent faithful have become inured to disaster followed by

deeds of derring-do; but it is not good for the blood pressure.

There were early signs that a more orthodox course of events might be followed yesterday. When they had reached 55 without loss, Ed Smith, in his first championship game of the season, and David Fulton had equalled Kent's best championship opening partnership this season. However, when they had reached 63, normal service was restored.

It was James Ormond, Leicestershire's up-and-coming quick bowler, who made the breach, brushing Smith's glove as he attempted to hook Ormond followed Mullally's dismissal of Fulton by also accounting for Wells and Llong. At this stage he had taken three for 12 in 18 balls, and when Ward, after making 51 from 37 balls, with eight spanning fours and a six, mistimed and was comfortably caught by the bowler, Kent stared at disaster once more.

As the world knows, Ealham gives 100 per cent whenever he is called on. Maybe less well known is Strang's powerful mixture of orthodox defence and often agricultural attack. Each over down Leicestershire in his own way and set Kent back on their feet, which for them is just as well. The pitch is good and Headley's strained side has kept him out, though he expects to be fit for the fourth Test match.



Ward is caught and bowled by Pierson shortly after reaching his half-century at Canterbury yesterday

## Hick leads way in New Road run feast

By John Thicknesse

**WORCESTER** (first day of three; Pakistan A won toss; Pakistan A, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 99 runs behind Worcestershire)

A FIRM pitch 55 yards from the pavilion and a quick outfield produced a run feast at New Road. Of the 431 runs scored in six hours 50 minutes, all but 121 came in fours and sixes, which numbered 73 and three respectively.

The bowlers held their own, however. Ali Rizvi taking five for 68 with flatish wrist-spin for the touring team, and

Maneer Mirza, a 19-year-old seamer, collecting a wicket on his debut for the county.

Grabe Hick, captaining Worcestershire for the first time in the absence of Moody, Rhodes and Illingworth, played the innings of the day, but he was almost

outplayed by Ali Naqvi. Having put together 114 last week in a vain attempt to stage off defeat by MCC, Naqvi opened his 29-ball frolic yesterday with a four over mid-off in Sheriary's first over and added seven more boundaries before being trapped leg-before. Salim Elahi, striking 11 fours in his fifty, stayed in until the close for 78 not out.

In Worcestershire's innings, Hick was on course for a hundred before lunch until he was caught in the covers off a skier attempting a third straight six in successive overs off Rizvi.

Out of their depth as the touring team might have been bowling to a batsman of Hick's power, the ease with which he dominated play was remarkable. While he was making 55 off 48 balls, including two sixes and ten fours, Weston and Springle scored 11 runs between them. Unusually, it was Hick's third highest first-class score of the summer, following hundreds against Gloucestershire and Oxford University.

### THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	Portus (V Clarke)	12946	26	Friday Night XI (B McFarlane)	14501	51	Dawson Dynamos (M D Shepherd)	14237	76	Pauline Stars (M P Howell)	14106
2	14 Labe (P Johnson)	12507	27	Fantasy Fomok (G Crutchley)	14472	52	Diamond White (R White)	14232	77	The Band Played On (M Reed)	14101
3	The Twins (G Collier)	12499	28	Verity Vantage No 1	14472	53	Jimmy's C G (J D Curran)	14229	78	R Spay's XI (M Webb)	14097
4	Ace All Rounders (A Eade)	14006	29	All Rounders XI (N Pemberton)	14431	54	Willow Cricketers (M W Barber)	14201	79	The Sunshine Band (J Shephard)	14080
5	Three Lads (P Johnson)	14000	30	Points Galore (D Fenton)	14421	55	Wells Fargo (B E House)	14199	80	Skipper's Eleven (E Webb)	14071
6	Colony Cricket (G Crutchley)	14000	31	Verity Vantage No 2	14419	56	Dennis Dennis (D Taggart)	14183	81	Shadow Leader 1 (D Finley)	14067
7	Four in the Bush (P Johnson)	14000	32	James Boy's One (M Jones)	14414	57	Morley Bears (M White)	14182	82	Retirement Hero's (M Parnham)	14063
8	All Round Ability (B Burnett)	14000	33	The Braughing Duck (P Moore)	14414	58	Caspar's XI (J D Chandler)	14191	83	Ships Eleven (M Sharp)	14058
9	Rob's Eleven (A Kelly)	14000	34	Cats Eyes (N Marchant)	14410	59	Toby Ross (A Luchbury)	14186	84	Kim's Best (D Geoghegan)	14053
10	Fantasy Fomok (G Crutchley)	14000	35	Doodly Duck (J Rye)	14400	60	Windy's Wonders (G Miller)	14182	85	Karl's Eleven (D Finley)	14053
11	Beccard's Boys (M Woodley)	14000	36	Rob's Eleven (A Kelly)	14396	61	S R's XI (P Sheppard)	14181	86	Class Warfare 2 (S King)	14040
12	Rug Calcutti (A Rose)	14000	37	Off To A Good Start (S Swales)	14396	62	Meg's Eleven (S Simons)	14176	87	Hurricane (A Fraser)	14032
13	Colony Cricket (G Crutchley)	14000	38	Wobblers (D Taggart)	14396	63	The Gains Trust (J Swales)	14176	88	Melvin Melvin (A J D Webb)	14027
14	Fantasy Fomok (G Crutchley)	14000	39	No More Fraydies (D E)	14396	64	Star Wars 2 (J A)	14165	89	Wobblers (D Taggart)	14027
15	M J's XI (M Squires)	14000	40	Nine in the Bush (P Johnson)	14396	65	Letting Rip (D Finley)	14144	90	Farneham's XI (M Hawk)	14025
16	Fantasy Fomok (G Crutchley)	14000	41	Don't Forget To Run (P Rowan)	14396	66	Thunder Burmes (M D Bates)	14140	91	Caroline's XI (A Luchbury)	14021
17	Wobblers (D Taggart)	14000	42	Dave's Dazzlers (D Talbot)	14396	67	Sunshine (R Knowle)	14136	92	Sam's XI (G Samson)	14021
18	Bar's Imperials (JAN JOHNSTON)	14000	43	Alles Angles (A Wood)	14396	68	The Runners (D Tait)	14130	93	The Funky Monkeys (A Moss)	14016
19	Lamar Old Boys (P Fenton)	14000	44	Standard Bunkers (M Brown)	14396	69	Poppo Fat Belles (D Sharp)	14113	94	Ken's First XI (K Harsh)	14002
20	Play For X (J D Hunter)	14000	45	Dave's Dazzlers (D Talbot)	14396	70	Wobblers (D Taggart)	14113	95	Three Gals XI (R Ady)	13998
21	Totally A Luchbury	14000	46	Coal And Chip (P P Stabbing)	14396	71	Convent Corner (D Mitchell)	14111	96	Wile Don Mean The (J Moss)	13984
22	MOON AND GO (A P N Jones)	14000	47	Caroline's XI (A Luchbury)	14396	72	Off Spinnars (A A Milroy)	14111	97	Bald's Shoes (T Sherlock)	13982
23	PROVED 3 (D Carter)	14000	48	Dave's Dazzlers (D Talbot)	14396	73	County XI (A Taylor)	14107	98	Fantasy Fomok (G Crutchley)	13977
24	Wobblers (D Taggart)	14000	49	The 1987 X I (J A Luchbury)	14396	74	Wobblers (D Taggart)	14107	99	D A M A R C (D Thon)	13977
25	Orchid XI (J D Hunter)	14000	50	Fantastic (P Sainsbury)	14396	75	Rob's Barry Army (R Anderson)	14107	100	Brown's XI (M S Brown)	13974

### INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in the first four columns cover the past season's final column is the player's overall points total. The figures include all matches completed by July 14. Overseas players are shown in bold type.						Rising Stars in <i>italic</i> .											
Player (no)	Runs	Wides	CVS	Weekly total	Overall total	Player (no)	Runs	Wides	CVS	Weekly total	Overall total	Player (no)	Runs	Wides	CVS	Weekly total	Overall total
Batsmen (001-146)																	
Category A																	
S Hutton (001)	57	0	1	82	82	P A Strong (179)	23	0	1	43	1822	K J Shing (267)	0	0	0	0	500
J L Johnson (002)	58	0	1	84	84	C W Tolly (178)	54	7	1	214	719	C E W Steward (268)	1	0	0	21	736
M Keach (003)	67	0	1	112	420	W M Tolly (180)	0	0	0	0	288	A M Smith (269)	12	4	1	112	1325
W S Kendall (004)	31	0	0	51	578	W W Tolly (181)	0	0	0	0	56	D J Smith (270)	1	0	0	101	1024
G J Morris (005)	31	0	0	51	578	P J Tolly (182)	4	1	1	44	1125	P M Smith (271)	0	0	0	20	1040
R A Kitching (006)	0	0	0	0	50	R J Tolly (183)	0	0	0	0	0	J P Tolly (272)	6	2	0	46	981
G A Khan (007)	25	0	1	45	176	C W Tolly (184)	104	0	1	129	1487	P C Tolly (273)	0	0	0	0	40
M G Khan (008)	16	0	0	16	168	C W Tolly (185)	11	3	0	51	1230	S D Tolly (274)	91	3	1	176	1205
D A Leach (009)	0	0	0	21	1208	W Tolly (186)	0	0	0	0	0	S K Tolly (275)	0	0	0	0	1405
N L Leach (010)	36	0	0	36	377	Wicketkeepers (188-216)											
J L Leach (011)	0	0	0	0	756	A N Aynes (188)	11	0	7	151	1115	U Alzai (260)	0	0	0	0	649
M L Leach (012)	0	0	0	0	42	J N Bailey (187)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (261)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (013)	0	0	0	0	134	S J Bailey (188)	0	0	0	0	0	D A Alzai (262)	0	0	0	0	608
D L Leach (014)	0	0	0	0	135	K R Brown (189)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (263)	0	0	0	0	608
D L Leach (015)	0	0	0	0	135	M Burns (190)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (264)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (016)	0	0	0	0	135	A A Chapman (191)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (265)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (017)	0	0	0	0	135	D A Chapman (192)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (266)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (018)	0	0	0	0	135	T Frost (193)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (267)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (019)	0	0	0	0	135	S J Griffiths (194)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (268)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (020)	0	0	0	0	135	A J Bailey (195)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (269)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (021)	0	0	0	0	135	W K Higgs (196)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (270)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (022)	0	0	0	0	135	B J Hyatt (197)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (271)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (023)	0	0	0	0	135	A J Bailey (198)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (272)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (024)	0	0	0	0	135	K M Knicker (199)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (273)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (025)	0	0	0	0	135	D G Liggins (200)	24	0	0	24	1089	A Alzai (274)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (026)	0	0	0	0	135	A J Bailey (201)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (275)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (027)	0	0	0	0	135	C P Minton (202)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (276)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (028)	0	0	0	0	135	M Minton (203)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (277)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (029)	0	0	0	0	135	P A Minton (204)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (278)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (030)	0	0	0	0	135	M Minton (205)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (279)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (031)	0	0	0	0	135	J P Minton (206)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (280)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (032)	0	0	0	0	135	S J Pinton (207)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (281)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (033)	0	0	0	0	135	D Pinton (208)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (282)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (034)	0	0	0	0	135	A J Pinton (209)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (283)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (035)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Pinton (210)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (284)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (036)	0	0	0	0	135	A D Shaw (211)	24	0	0	24	736	A Alzai (285)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (037)	0	0	0	0	135	P A Strong (212)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (286)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (038)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (213)	1	0	0	61	1225	A Alzai (287)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (039)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (214)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (288)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (040)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (215)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (289)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (041)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (216)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (290)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (042)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (217)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (291)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (043)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (218)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (292)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (044)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (219)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (293)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (045)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (220)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (294)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (046)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (221)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (295)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (047)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (222)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (296)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (048)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (223)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (297)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (049)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (224)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (298)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (050)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (225)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (299)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (051)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (226)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (300)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (052)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (227)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (301)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (053)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (228)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (302)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (054)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (229)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (303)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (055)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (230)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (304)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (056)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (231)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (305)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (057)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (232)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (306)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (058)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (233)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (307)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (059)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (234)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (308)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (060)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (235)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (309)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (061)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (236)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (310)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (062)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (237)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (311)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (063)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (238)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (312)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (064)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (239)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (313)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (065)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (240)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (314)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (066)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (241)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (315)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (067)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (242)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (316)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (068)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (243)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (317)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (069)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (244)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (318)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (070)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (245)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (319)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (071)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (246)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (320)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (072)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (247)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (321)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (073)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (248)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (322)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (074)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (249)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (323)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (075)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (250)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (324)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (076)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (251)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (325)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (077)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (252)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (326)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (078)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (253)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (327)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (079)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (254)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (328)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (080)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (255)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (329)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (081)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (256)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (330)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (082)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (257)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (331)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (083)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (258)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (332)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (084)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (259)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (333)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (085)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (260)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (334)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (086)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (261)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (335)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (087)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (262)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (336)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (088)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (263)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (337)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (089)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (264)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (338)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (090)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (265)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (339)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (091)	0	0	0	0	135	R J Strong (266)	0	0	0	0	0	A Alzai (340)	0	0	0	0	608
M L Leach (0																	



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